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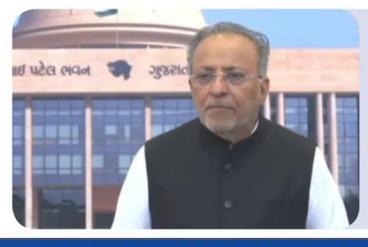

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Kejriwal, Sisodia Discharged in Excise Case; CBI to Appeal

Court cites evidence gaps; Aam Aadmi Party hails verdict as victory

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Friday discharged AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal, former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and 21 others in the alleged excise policy corruption case, citing lack of evidence and significant gaps in the investigation. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it will challenge the order in the Delhi High Court.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh of the Rouse Avenue Court refused to take cognisance of the CBI's chargesheet linked to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy, ruling that the material placed on record failed to establish sufficient grounds for prosecution. The court also ordered a departmental inquiry against the investigating officer, making strong observations on the manner in which the probe was conducted. The case had centred on alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the 2021-22 excise policy. Kejriwal and Sisodia had denied all wrongdoing, calling the charges politically motivated.

> "To destroy AAP, its five biggest leaders were put in jail. Even a sitting Chief Minister, something never before seen in Indian history, was dragged from his home and imprisoned for six months.
> —Arvind Kejriwal

Following the verdict, the Aam Aadmi Party described the ruling as a decisive setback to the prosecution's case. An emotional Kejriwal said he had "earned nothing but honesty" in public life and reiterated his faith in the judiciary. Sisodia echoed the sentiment, invoking "Satyamev Jayate" and expressing pride in the Constitution.

In its response, the CBI said several aspects of the probe had not been adequately considered by the trial court and confirmed it would file an appeal. A spokesperson maintained that the agency stands by its investigation.

The development marks a significant turn in a high-profile case that had dominated political discourse for months and led to the arrests of top AAP leaders. With the matter now likely headed to the High Court, the legal battle over the excise policy controversy appears set to continue.

Speaking at a press conference at the party headquarters, the AAP chief accused the BJP of plotting against his party after realising it could not defeat them on governance. He claimed Delhi residents were satisfied with AAP's performance, leaving the BJP with no political ground to challenge them. "They saw they couldn't win on work, so they resorted to conspiracy," he said. He asserted that since people regard him and the party as honest, the BJP sought to damage that image by branding him corrupt. Allegations of a liquor scam and siphoning ₹100 crore were fabricated, he said, adding that central agencies were misused for four years.

AAM AADMI PARTY

GAFX Sector Can Create 20 Lakh Jobs in Five Years: CM

BENGALURU

The Games, Animation and Visual Effects sector can generate nearly 20 lakh jobs nationwide within five years, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Friday, underlining the state's ambition to lead India's fast-growing creative economy.

Inaugurating the seventh edition of Bengaluru GAFX-2026, the Chief Minister described the GAFX sector as not merely an economic opportunity but a "civilisational opportunity" that blends technology with storytelling and culture. He said the industry creates employment across diverse fields including design, coding, storytelling, music composition and AI modelling.

Karnataka, he noted, is positioning itself at the forefront of the Orange Economy through a comprehensive strategy for the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality) sector. The state's vision rests on building a robust and future-ready talent pipeline, strengthening production infrastructure, supporting startups and original intellectual property, expanding opportunities beyond Bengaluru, and forging global partnerships.

The government is currently implementing its third AVGC-XR Policy for 2024–2029, focusing on industry-aligned curricula, certification programmes and stronger academia-industry collaboration. Highlighting the role of Artificial Intelligence, Siddaramaiah said AI must remain a tool that amplifies human creativity rather than replacing it.

PM asks India Inc to invest, take advantage of Budget announcements

NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi on Friday urged India Inc to step up investment and innovation, saying the government has laid a strong foundation through sustained capital expenditure and policy reforms, and it is now time for the private sector to drive the next phase of growth.

Speaking at a post-Budget webinar on "Technology, Reforms and Finance for Viksit Bharat," Modi said public capital expenditure has increased from Rs 2 lakh crore 11 years ago to over Rs 12 lakh crore in the Union Budget 2026-27.

This sharp rise, he said, signals opportunities for private players to invest with renewed vigour and leverage Budget announcements. He called on financial institutions and analysts to design practical solutions, improve market confidence, and strengthen project appraisal and sanction methodologies. Greater participation in infrastructure and innovation in financial models is essential, he added. Over the past decade, the government has significantly scaled up spending on highways, railways, ports, airports, digital infrastructure and energy to crowd in private investment and boost productivity. However, private investment has yet to fully accelerate.

OPS Joins DMK in Major Political Shift Ahead of Polls

CHENNAI

Expelled AIADMK leader and former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam formally joined the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) on Friday in the presence of party president and Chief Minister M. K. Stalin, marking a significant realignment in Tamil Nadu politics ahead of the Assembly elections.

Party sources indicated that the DMK leadership has assured Assembly election tickets to Panneerselvam and a few of his key supporters in and around Theni district. The move is seen as a strategic attempt to consolidate anti-AIADMK votes in the region and weaken the opposition's traditional base.

Panneerselvam, once considered a loyalist of former Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa, had revolted against V. K. Sasikala following Jayalalithaa's death. Although he later merged his faction with that of Edappadi K. Palaniswami under a dual leadership arrangement, tensions persisted within the party.

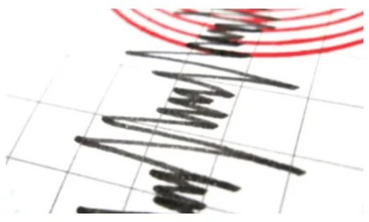
After the AIADMK's defeat in the 2021 Assembly elections, the power struggle between the two leaders intensified. In 2022, the party's general council abolished the dual leadership model, reinstated Palaniswami as the sole leader, and expelled Panneerselvam and his supporters. Sources suggest that efforts to secure space within the NDA fold did not materialise, prompting his shift to the DMK. His entry is expected to reshape electoral equations in southern Tamil Nadu, particularly in Theni, where he retains influence.

5.4-Quake Shakes B'desh; Tremors Felt in Kolkata

KOLKATA

A 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck near Dhaka in Bangladesh on Friday afternoon, with tremors felt across several parts of Kolkata, prompting residents to rush out of homes and offices. No immediate reports of damage or injuries were received.

The quake occurred at around 1:30 pm IST, approximately 188 kilometres from Dhaka. While the Bangladesh Meteorological Department recorded the magnitude at 5.4, the US Geological



Survey measured it at 5.3. Owing to Kolkata's geographical proximity to Bangladesh, tremors were experienced in multiple neighbourhoods across the city and adjoining areas.

According to the USGS, the earthquake struck at a depth of 9.8 kilometres, classifying it as a shallow quake. Shallow earthquakes, typically occurring between 0 and 70 kilometres below the surface, tend to produce stronger ground shaking as seismic waves travel a shorter distance to reach populated areas. The epicentre was located southwest of the Seismic Centre in Agargaon, Dhaka. In several parts of Kolkata, residents reported ceiling fans swaying and light household objects shifting. Many people gathered in open spaces as a precautionary measure.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot gives assent to SC internal reservation bill

BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has given assent to the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025, clearing the way for the state government to fill over 56,000 vacant posts.

Sources in Lok Bhavan said the Governor approved the bill after it was passed by both Houses of the Karnataka Legislature. In the absence of gubernatorial assent, the state had been unable to proceed with recruitment to vacant government posts. Following the Cabinet meeting, Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil said the government would move ahead with recruitment under the existing 50 per cent reservation cap.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ (ಕೆಸ್ಟೆಪ್ಸ್)

1000 ದಿನಗಳ ಸಾಧನೆ

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಕರುನಾಡು ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಭಾರತರತ್ನ
ಸರ್ ಸಿ.ವಿ. ರಾಮನ್

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ

ಇಂದಿನ ಈ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನವೇ ಜಗವನ್ನಾಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಬದುಕಿನ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಳುಮೆಯಿಂದ ಉಪಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಉಡಾವಣೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲೂ ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಯುಗದ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿ, ಜನಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು, ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್ ಬೋಸರಾಜು ರವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಗಲಿರುಳು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಚಿವರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು
ಅವರು ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ರೋಡ್ ಮ್ಯಾಪ್ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ & ತಾರಾಲಯಗಳು

ಕಳೆದ 1000 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಮುಂತಾದ 4 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು, ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ ತಾರಾಲಯ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ 8 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ 4 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾರಾಲಯಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೇರಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವೂ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ನಗರ/ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಮೀಪ 25 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 300 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಡಾ. ಎಚ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಡಾ. ಎಚ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ & ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ತಾಣಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ತಾರಾಲಯ

ಶಾಲಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಮನೋಭಾವವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ, ಖಗೋಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಗಳನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ದೂರದರ್ಶಕಗಳ ವಿತರಣೆ

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಗೋಳ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಲು 3 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 833 ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲಾ ಒಂದರಂತೆ ದೂರದರ್ಶಕಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೆಹರು ಸ್ಟೀಮ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್

ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಹರು ಸ್ಟೀಮ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

PHD- DST Scholarship

ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ 60 ಮಂದಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ತಲಾ 20 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಶಿಷ್ಯವೇತನವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

VGST Grants

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ದಾರ್ಶನಿಕ ಸಮೂಹದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಈ ವರೆಗೂ 204 ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 32.90 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ

2025ರ ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ 'ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು' ಶೃಂಗಸಭೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, 2035ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಯಿತು; ಸಜಿವ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ನಿಯೋಗವು ಸ್ವಿಡ್ಜರ್‌ಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಶೃಂಗಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನುಡಿ ಬರೆದಿತು.

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಸುಲಭ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಹಾಗು ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಎಂಬ ಆಶಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದ ಕಟ್ಟಕಡೆಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ & ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಸವಲತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಹಾಗು ಸುಂದರ ನಾಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಮುನ್ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 51 A (h) ವಿಧಿಯ ಅನ್ವಯ **"ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆ, ಮಾನವೀಯತೆ, ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು"** - ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.

ಡಾ. ಮಂಜುಳಾ ಎನ್., ಭಾ. ಆ. ಸೇ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ,
ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ, ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಜೈವಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ
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ಸದಾಶಿವ ಪ್ರಭು ಬಿ., ಭಾ. ಆ. ಸೇ
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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ (ಕೆಸ್ಟೆಪ್ಸ್), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

'Open War' with Afghanistan, says Pak Minister after strikes

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif on Friday declared that Islamabad now considers itself in an "open war" with neighbouring Afghanistan following fresh cross-border strikes and escalating hostilities between the two countries.

In a post on X, Asif said Pakistan had exhausted its "patience" after what it described as Afghan-initiated cross-border attacks. He alleged that the Taliban administration had failed to ensure regional stability and instead allowed militant groups to operate from Afghan soil. There was no immediate response from authorities in Kabul to his remarks.

QUICK READ

Wild Bison Attacks Farmer in Mundolu Village, Koppa Taluk

Chikkamagaluru

Wildlife troubles continue to escalate in the Malnad region of Chikkamagaluru district, where farmers already battered by elephant herds now face a growing threat from wild bison. In a fresh incident, a bison attacked a farmer in Mundolu village of Megunda hobli, Koppa taluk.

The victim is Shivappagowda (65), a resident of the village. As per his routine, he went to his coffee estate early in the morning to irrigate the crops and was about to start the motor when a wild bison suddenly charged from behind. The animal gored him with its horns, inflicting deep wounds on his thigh and back. Shivappagowda collapsed on the spot from the force of the assault.

Local residents immediately rushed to his aid and shifted him to a nearby hospital. Due to the severity of the injuries, he was later referred to Manipal Hospital for advanced treatment.

Unidentified Man's Body Found Near Shastri Circle Police Outpost

Kundapura

Kundapura police recovered the body of an unidentified man, estimated to be between 45 and 50 years old, near the Shastri Circle police outpost on the morning of February 26. The deceased appears to have come from another region to work as a daily-wage labourer in the area. Authorities suspect he passed away sometime between the night of February 25 and the early hours of February 26, possibly due to a sudden health complication. He had a wheatish complexion, stood approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall, and had a sturdy build. At the time of discovery, he was wearing a light sky-blue T-shirt, a shawl around his neck featuring red with white-and-black stripes, and black night pants. A case has been formally registered at Kundapura City Police Station, and efforts are underway to identify the individual and trace any relatives.

Man Who Returned from Kollam Found Hanged Near Home in Perla

Kasaragod

A 58-year-old resident of Perla, who had returned home from Kollam the previous week, was found in a hanged state near his residence. Venkataramana Acharya, a native of the area near Idiyadka temple, had been working as a tailor in Kollam. He arrived back in his village on February 19. On the night of February 25, he had dinner at home and went to bed as usual. By around 5 o'clock on Thursday morning, he was no longer in the house. Alarmed family members began searching the premises and surroundings, only to find his body suspended by a noose from a tree close to the home. The exact circumstances leading to the suicide remain unclear at this stage.

Three Women Reported Missing in Kasaragod

KASARAGOD

Kasaragod district has recorded three separate cases of women going missing, with police investigations revealing voluntary departures in at least two instances.

In the Vellarikundu Police Station limits, P.K. Madhu's 19-year-old daughter Beena from Malom Adirumavu had been reported missing. She later appeared at the police station along with her lover Ranjith, informing officers that the two had solemnised their marriage at a temple of their choice.

Authorities produced the couple before the court, and upon confirming Beena's free consent, she was allowed to leave with Ranjith.

From the Adoor Police Station jurisdiction, Lalitha's 35-year-old daughter Prema from Panjikallin abandoned her two children and left home to join her lover Harish, a resident of Hassan. Police sources stated that Prema subsequently contacted her family by phone and informed them she was staying with Harish.

In the Hosdurg Police Station area, Sunil Lawrence's 22-year-old daughter Alina from Chammatamvayal Pudiyapuraykal went missing. A complaint lodged with police indicated she had gone away with a man named Sandeep from Palakkad.

Hosangadi Blackmail Accused Injures Woman Cop During Mangaluru Arrest

KASARAGOD

Manjeshwar police nab Moidin Saman (33) from Kallapu vegetable market after he seriously injured a female civil police officer's finger while trying to flee; two co-accused already in custody, one still at large.

Manjeshwar police arrested a 33-year-old man from Hosabettu after he allegedly attacked a female civil police officer, causing a severe finger injury, during an attempt to evade capture at Mangaluru's Kallapu vegetable market.

The arrested individual is Moidin Saman (33), a resident of Hosabettu. Acting on specific intelligence about his presence at the market, officers conducted an operation and took him into custody. Two other suspects linked to the same case—K.A. Haris (40) from Piraramoola in Manjeshwar and T.K. Muhammad Faizal (43) from Badaje Kajur Mali—had been apprehended earlier. Police stated that efforts continue to trace and arrest one more person connected to the incident.

The case dates back to January 14, 2026, when the accused allegedly barged into a room in Hosangadi occupied by Muhammad Hanif (41), a resident of Kairangala in Ullal taluk, and his friend Israth (30) from Natekal near Mudipu.

They assaulted the pair, partially stripped them, recorded a video on a mobile phone, and demanded ₹2 lakh under threat of circulating the footage on social media. When the victims refused, the perpetrators snatched ₹5,000 in cash and a mobile phone before escaping.

After registering the case, Manjeshwar police travelled to Mangaluru to apprehend the suspects. During the operation to nab Moidin Saman, he resisted violently and inflicted a serious injury on the hand of a woman civil police officer before attempting to flee. He was subsequently overpowered and arrested.

University Wins Women's Cross Country Crown; Alva's Athletes Shine

MANGALURU

Demonstrating remarkable endurance and teamwork, the women's team representing Mangalore University bagged the overall championship at the All-India Inter-University Women's Cross Country meet held here on Friday.

The victorious squad comprised six athletes, all students of Alva's Education Foundation. This marks the fourth time the university has secured the coveted national title in the women's category.

Mangalore University topped the standings with 26 points, comfortably ahead of Savitribai Phule Pune University (67 points) and Maharshi Dayanand University (73 points).

In individual performances, Tamsi clinched first place, while Yashi Sachan finished third. Teammates Jyothi and Bhagirathi secured ninth and 13th positions respectively, strengthening the university's points tally.

The national-level championship was organised by Mangalore University in association with the Association of Indian Universities and hosted by Alva's College. A total of 133 universities from across India participated, fielding over 680 athletes along with more than 210 coaches and support staff.

The closing ceremony was attended by Dr M Mohan Alva, President of Alva's Education Foundation, AIU observer Gulab Singh, Technical Director Prof. Sundar, Dr Gerald Santosh D'Souza, Director of Physical Education at Mangalore University, and Dr Kurian, Principal of Alva's College.

56 Kg Beef Seized in Raid; Accused's Property Attached

BELTHANGADY

In a late-night operation on February 26, police seized 56 kg of beef and attached a house premises in connection with an alleged illegal cattle slaughter case at Hosa Vaklu in Barya village.

Based on specific information, a team led by PSI Suthesh K.P. from Uppinangady Police Station raided the residence of H Abdul Rahiman. Police said that two persons fled from the compound on noticing the team.

A search of the premises led to the recovery of beef packed in covers, while more packets were found inside an autorickshaw parked nearby. The total quantity seized was 56 kg. Authorities also took into custody a weighing scale, the autorickshaw, a mobile phone and other items believed to be connected with the offence.

Police have registered a case (Crime No. 27/2026) under Sections 4 and 12 of the Karnataka Prevention of Slaughter and Preservation of Cattle Act, 2020 along with relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

Officials stated that, after completing required legal formalities, the residential compound allegedly used for cattle slaughter has been seized. Efforts are on to trace the individuals who fled from the scene. Investigation is continuing.

Byndoor Court Convicts Four for Illegal Tree Felling in Reserved Forest

UDUPI

A Byndoor Civil and JMFC court has pronounced guilty verdict against four individuals found guilty of unlawfully felling trees in the Koorasigudde Reserved Forest under the Byndoor Forest Range and transporting the timber.

The convicted persons are Ravichandra, Chandra alias Nityananda, Satish, and Mahesh. In 2014, they illegally cut down teak and honne species trees inside the Koorasigudde Reserved Forest area falling within Byndoor jurisdiction. The felled logs were stored at Ravichandra's residence.

The offence came to light when Byndoor Range Forest Officer Prabhakar Kulal and his staff detected the illegal activity, conducted an investigation, and filed a charge sheet against the accused in the competent court.

The court imposed one year and six months of simple imprisonment on each accused, along with a fine of ₹12,000. In case of failure to pay the fine, an additional nine months of simple imprisonment will apply. The convicts were further ordered to pay ₹50,000 as compensation to the Forest Department for the trees felled in the reserved forest.

Gold Jewellery Worth ₹12.89 Lakh Stolen in Two Separate Incidents

CHIKKAMAGALURU

Chikkamagaluru district reported two distinct thefts of gold ornaments totaling approximately ₹12.89 lakh in value.

In the first incident, a woman resident of Karkipete village went for an evening walk on February 25. Two masked men arrived on a scooter from the Karkipete direction, forcibly snatched the mangalsutra weighing about 45 grams and valued at ₹2.25 lakh from around her neck, and fled immediately.

In the second case, a woman boarded a KSRTC bus around 2:45–3:00 pm from the bus stand near Katrigudda Mariyamma temple on K.M. Road in Chikkamagaluru city. She was travelling to her daughter-in-law's sister's house in Sakarayapattana. After moving forward inside the bus, she opened her bag zippers to confirm her jewellery was safe, then closed them, placed the bag on her lap, and continued the journey.

Upon alighting at Sakarayapattana and taking a few steps, she noticed the bag zip had opened. Afraid to check openly at the bus stand, she proceeded to her relative's house. There, she discovered the inner bag's zip had also been opened. A jewellery box inside was missing, along with its contents: two bangles (approximately 40 grams worth ₹5.32 lakh), one necklace (around 35 grams worth ₹4.65 lakh), and one pair of earrings (5 grams worth ₹66,500). The total weight of the stolen items was about 80 grams, valued at ₹10.64 lakh.

Lokayukta Committed to Uprooting Corruption Completely: Justice B. Veerappa

UDUPI

Karnataka Deputy Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa declared that corruption remains the gravest menace to democratic governance and affirmed the Lokayukta institution's unwavering resolve to eradicate it from the roots. He called upon public servants to cultivate a genuine service-oriented attitude and take a firm pledge to eliminate graft entirely.

He delivered these remarks while inaugurating a session for hearing and disposing of pending cases at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee auditorium in the District Deputy Commissioner's office complex in Manipal on Thursday.

Justice Veerappa emphasised that ordinary citizens must boldly assert their legally guaranteed rights and duties. Failing to fight for justice when denied amounts to an unpardonable offence. Officers and staff across government departments are duty-bound to deliver entitled facilities to the public promptly and in accordance with rules, thereby sparing people from repeated visits to offices.

He noted that both officials and citizens need to undergo attitudinal change if corruption is to be fully controlled.

Praising Udupi district's leadership in the education sector, he urged local officials to render honest, transparent service to the public without any blemish, as only then can their work gain true meaning. The session addressed 150 pending cases from the district. He cautioned the public against lodging frivolous or false complaints, stating that such actions invite prosecution leading to up to three years' imprisonment and fines.

District and Sessions Judge Kiran Gangannavar presided over the event and stressed the need for officials in public service to adopt a fresh perspective and demonstrate greater efficiency in their duties.

Deputy Commissioner Swaroopa T.K. welcomed the gathering and presented the introductory remarks. Among those present were Lokayukta Deputy Registrar (Enquiry) Aravind N.V., ZP CEO Prateek Bayal, Superintendent of Police Hariram Shankar, Mangaluru Division Lokayukta Police Superintendent B.P. Dinesh Kumar, DFO Ruthven P., Wildlife Division DFO Shivaram M. Babu, and various district and taluk-level officers.

Assistant Director (Youth Empowerment and Sports) Dr. Roshan Kumar Shetty compered the proceedings, while Senior Civil Judge Manu Patel B.Y. proposed the vote of thanks.

'One Nation-One Card' Rolled Out in Udupi, Dakshina Kannada RTO Offices

UDUPI

Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts, along with all Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in Karnataka, have been issuing "One Nation-One Card" smart cards for the past two months.

This initiative aligns with the Central Government's Digital India vision, designed to deliver uniform and hassle-free services to vehicle owners and drivers nationwide. It provides a single standardised smart card format that consolidates vehicle registration (RC) and driving licence (DL) related services.

The card stores vehicle particulars, owner information, and driving licence details securely in an embedded electronic chip and a QR code. This technology is expected to significantly reduce the risk of forged documents while enabling enforcement officers to instantly verify information during inspections.

Under Digital India push, unified high-tech smart cards integrating RC and DL details via chip and QR code now issued for two months across state RTOs; aims to curb fakes, speed up checks, and ease interstate validity.

The scheme is being implemented through collaboration between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and the National Informatics Centre. The card can also be linked to the Parivahan Seva portal for accessing online services. Since a driving licence or vehicle registration obtained in one state gains easy recognition across others, citizens may no longer need to visit offices in different states for related matters.

New smart cards featuring QR codes and chips are currently being issued to newly registered vehicles and first-time DL applicants. Existing traditional cards remain valid and continue in use. The upgraded cards are also provided during ownership transfers, registration renewals, hypothecation termination, address changes, licence renewals, and other specified applications.

Unlike older cards that suffered from fading text, the new versions eliminate this issue. All vehicle-related information is securely embedded, and details can be quickly accessed by scanning the QR code.

Deputy Lokayukta Slams Udupi Officials Over Polluted STP Discharge

UDUPI

Justice B. Veerappa, Karnataka's Deputy Lokayukta, conducted a surprise visit to the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Nittoor on Friday morning and voiced strong disapproval over its poor performance.

Despite monthly maintenance expenditure of nearly ₹3 lakh, the facility—operational since 2010—was discharging black, foul-smelling water even after six treatment stages.

Clearly disturbed by the sight, Justice Veerappa described the ongoing pollution as deeply concerning and instructed authorities to file a case against Keerthi Kumar, an official from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), citing dereliction of duty.

The STP was originally set up by the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC). Upgradation work, budgeted at around ₹30 crore with funds already approved, has yet to start.

When CMC representatives asserted that preliminary groundwork had begun, conflicting statements and lack of precise information among officials only heightened the Deputy Lokayukta's frustration.

He warned that the untreated effluent flowing into the sea amounted to indirectly forcing the public to consume toxins. Justice Veerappa pointed out that inspections of STPs across 18 other districts had not revealed such glaringly polluted discharge anywhere else.

Later, during his tour toward Malpe, he met residents impacted by pollution in the Indrani river. A local woman explained that well water in the area had become unusable for years. She recalled how families once relied on it even for bathing, but now the chemical-laden water could not sustain fish.

Many villagers, she said, endure asthma and respiratory issues from the persistent stench. While piped drinking water from the CMC provides some relief, residents shut their homes in the evenings to escape the overpowering odour.

Justice Veerappa cautioned officials that continued indifference would face strict consequences. He is carrying forward his statewide inspection of environmental and civic facilities.

Chain-Link Fraud Alleged Against Firm; Students Demand Immediate Closure

ABVP and NSUI leaders, joined by cheated students, accuse Maharashtra-origin company of luring youth with fake job promises and extorting money through training schemes; warn of street protests if no action taken.

MANGALURU

Job-seeking students in Mangaluru have levelled serious fraud charges against a company called Vexan, operating near Kudroli under the guise of chain-link marketing. At a press conference held on Thursday, affected students along with office-bearers from ABVP and NSUI demanded strict action, including the immediate shutdown of the firm, threatening to take to the streets if authorities fail to intervene.

One female victim recounted spotting an Instagram advertisement promising web developer and web design jobs. Upon visiting the office, representatives offered pre-employment training along with food and accommodation for a fee of ₹2,500.

During the sessions, they exploited personal weaknesses to convince participants that staying and working locally could earn them lakhs. After training, pressure mounted to join schemes worth ₹11,000 and ₹51,000. Lacking funds, she borrowed from her mother by claiming it was for a laptop and handed the money over.

The company assured repayment through purchases of their supplied items and by recruiting three more people. However, the materials received were substandard. When she sought a refund due to growing doubts, officials delayed and harassed her for a long time.

Learning the truth upset her mother deeply, pushing the victim to the brink of suicide. Support from a friend gave her courage to file a police complaint, after which she eventually recovered her money.

Another affected student explained joining through a friend, lured by promises of a ₹30,000 monthly salary as a software developer. The firm collected only her Aadhaar card initially, then probed family background to push for more payments. She highlighted how aspirations for employment and high earnings trap students in the company's network.

ABVP-backed All Colleges Students' Organisation president Satwik stated that the firm targets students with job and income assurances, ensnaring over 100 from various city colleges in what functions as network marketing fraud. Some victims have since exited after realising the deceit, and police complaints are under investigation.

NSUI Mangaluru South unit president Christon Menezes revealed the company originates from Nashik, Maharashtra. Police had questioned it six months earlier following prior complaints, yet it continues to entice students with money-making dreams while inflicting mental harassment. He vowed to bring the matter to the attention of the Chief Minister and Home Minister.

The press meet was attended by student leaders Preethesh, Sinchana, and Sindhu.

Bajpe Town Panchayat Vows Swift Action on Anganwadi Centre Deficiencies

Chairman assures resolution of multiple infrastructure and operational issues raised by workers during a grievance meeting; oversight committee to be formed soon.

MANGALURU

Bajpe Town Panchayat will take full responsibility for addressing shortcomings at its Anganwadi centres and supporting the workers, stated Chairman Lokesh Poojary.

He made the commitment while speaking at a grievance redressal meeting for Anganwadi centres and staff within the panchayat limits, held at the town panchayat hall. A monitoring committee will soon be established, comprising the chairman, vice-chairman, members, and dedicated social workers to oversee progress.

Deputy Chairperson Sharmila Shetty and Revenue Inspector Ravi Kondana were present during the session, which was compered by Second Division Accounts Assistant Revathi.

Participants highlighted several pressing concerns including the Tattadi Kana Anganwadi centre lacking any proper access road, Koncharu Anganwadi centre faces severe toilet problems, and the roofing sheets having deteriorated badly.

According to observations, Kenjaru Anganwadi centre's retaining wall has collapsed and awaits repairs. Swamila Padavu requires interlocking tiles to fix drainage issues causing water stagnation. The Barinja Anganwadi centre in Porokodi serves 24 children but lacks cupboards for storing books; the water purification unit is non-functional.

Assistant workers are urgently needed at Jarinagar and Siddharth Nagar centres. Kenjaru Ambedkar Nagar centre has no assistant worker; during monsoons, water seeps inside, and fallen soil must be cleared immediately.

QUICK READ

Fatal Fall from Mango Tree Claims Life in Dharmasthala Village

Belthangady

A tragic accident occurred in Kembarje village of Dharmasthala on Thursday when a local resident fell from a mango tree and died on the spot. The deceased has been identified as Suresh Gowda (40), a resident of Kembarje. Early that morning, he climbed the tree to gather mangoes. During the process, he suddenly lost his grip and fell from a height, suffering fatal injuries immediately. He is survived by his wife and two children. Dharmasthala Police Station has registered a case regarding the incident.

Man Convicted Under SC/ST Act in Venur Case, Sentenced to One Year

Mangaluru

The II Additional District and Sessions Court in Mangaluru has sentenced a man to one year of imprisonment in connection with a case registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and relevant sections of the IPC. The case was registered at the Venur Police Station as Crime No. 15/2021 under Sections 452, 354(A) and 506 of the IPC, along with Sections 3(1)(w)(i) and 3(2)(Va) of the SC/ST Act. Following investigation, the charge sheet was filed before the court. The probe was conducted by Valentine D'Souza, then Deputy Superintendent of Police, Bantwal Sub-Division, who collected material evidence and completed the investigation. After trial proceedings before the II Additional District and Sessions Court, Mangaluru, presided over by Judge Jagadeesh V.N., the accused, identified as Khalid @ Abdul Khader, was convicted under Section 354-A of the IPC and Section 3(1)(w)(i) of the SC/ST Act, 1989. The court, in its judgment dated February 26, 2026, sentenced the accused to one year of simple imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹10,000. The prosecution was led by Special Public Prosecutor Jyothi Nayak, who argued the case on behalf of the State.

MP announces motivational event at SDM Law College to guide Dalit and tribal youth toward self-employment; urges large participation to tap government schemes and become job creators.

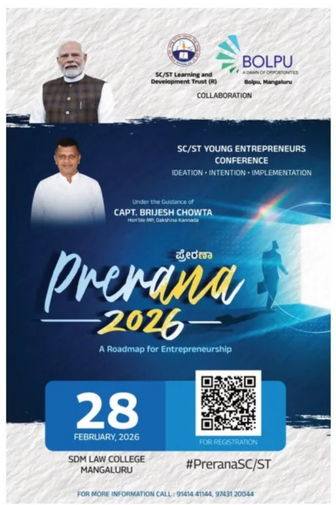
'Prerana-2026' Entrepreneurship Meet for SC/ST Students Set for February 28

MANGALURU

MP Captain Brijesh Chowta has announced that a special entrepreneurship motivation programme titled 'Prerana-2026' will take place on February 28 to inspire Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students toward starting their own ventures and equip them with essential guidance for future self-reliance.

The event is scheduled to be held at SDM Law College in Mangaluru. Chowta highlighted that Dakshina Kannada district has numerous talented SC/ST youth pursuing ITI, diploma, and engineering courses who harbour dreams of establishing businesses and possess the necessary skills and potential.

Several central and state government schemes and financial assistance options are already available to support such initiatives. During the 'Prerana' gathering, participants will receive detailed information on these programmes along with insights into bank loans and other financial assistance options. He appealed to a large number of SC/ST community students to attend and benefit from the session.



Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', the programme—organised in collaboration with the local 'Bolpu' initiative and the SC/ST Study and Development Trust—aims to revive the spirit of entrepreneurship in the region.

The core objective is to transform local youth from job seekers into job providers. Chowta noted that the Prime Minister places special emphasis on fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among SC/ST students, and this event aligns directly with that goal.

He encouraged young innovators to make the most of the platform offered by 'Bolpu' and utilise government facilities effectively, viewing the meet as a valuable opportunity to grow into successful entrepreneurs in Dakshina Kannada in the years ahead.

The inauguration will be performed by Mangalore University Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.L. Dharma. Among those expected to participate are Mangaluru South MLA Vedavyas Kamath, SDM Education Society CEO Pooran Verma, SC/ST Study and Development Trust President Mohanangayya Swami, Vadiraj Samarasya representative, and Dalit Entrepreneurs Association Working President C.G. Srinivas.

For further details, the public may contact 91414 41144 or 97431 20044.

Special Holi Festival Trains Launched on Mangaluru–Ahmedabad Route to Ease Holiday Rush

MANGALURU

To manage the expected surge in travellers during the Holi festivities, special festival trains have been scheduled on the Mangaluru Junction–Ahmedabad Junction corridor.

Train No. 09424, the Ahmedabad Junction–Mangaluru Junction Holi Special, will depart Ahmedabad Junction at 4:30 pm every Friday from February 27 to March 20. It is scheduled to arrive at Mangaluru Junction the next day at 8:00 pm, offering four services in total.

The return counterpart, Train No. 09423, the Mangaluru Junction–Ahmedabad Junction Holi Special, will leave Mangaluru Junction at 10:30 pm every Saturday from February 28 to March 21, reaching Ahmedabad Junction at 2:15 am on the following Monday, also providing four services.

These trains will stop at the following stations en route: Surathkal, Mulki, Udupi, Kundapur, Byndoor Mookambika Road, Bhatkal, Murudeshwar, Kumta, Gokarna Road, Ankola, Karwar, Canacona, Madgaon Junction, Karmali, Thivim, Kudal, Sindhudurg, Kankavali, Vaibhavwadi Road, Rajapur Road, Ratnagiri, Sangameshwar Road, Savarda, Chiplun, Khed, Mangaon, Roha, Pen, Panvel, Bhiwandi Road, Vasai Road, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch Junction, Vadodara Junction, Anand Junction, and Nadiad Junction.

Former MLA Condemns Suspension of Puttur Women's College Principal as Vendetta

PUTTUR

Former MLA Sanjeeva Matandoor has strongly criticised Puttur MLA Ashok Kumar Rai, alleging that the legislator deliberately wrote to the government to suspend the principal of the Government First Grade Women's College in Puttur as an act of revenge. He described the action against a woman as condemnable and motivated by personal vendetta.

In a media statement, Matandoor asserted that the students of the women's college are mature and capable enough to independently raise their voice against any injustice. They do not require instigation from lecturers or the principal to exercise their rights, as they possess the intelligence and independence to make their own decisions.

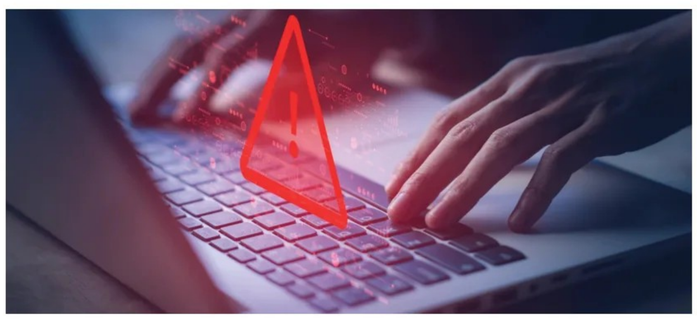
Despite this, MLA Ashok Rai reportedly wrote a letter claiming the principal had instigated the students' protest and succeeded in getting her placed under suspension. Matandoor pointed out that this accusation is explicitly mentioned in the suspension order.

He questioned how many times the MLA, who serves as chairman of the college development committee, had convened meetings to hear out the genuine problems at the institution. Everyone knows the answer is virtually none, he said.

By failing to hold discussions and understand the real situation on the ground, the MLA has shown intolerance toward the students' legitimate protest. Instead of addressing his own shortcomings, he targeted the principal to cover up failures and adopted an autocratic approach, Matandoor charged.

Man Files Cyber Complaint After Friend Misuses Current Account for Fraud and Threats Follow

MANGALURU



A local resident has lodged a complaint at the Mangaluru Cyber Police Station after his current account, originally opened for personal business in 2023 at a private bank, was allegedly exploited in cyber fraud and he began receiving life threats from fraudsters.

According to the complaint, the victim had developed a friendship with a person named Ibrahim around two years earlier. In December 2025, Ibrahim approached him requesting the current account for business purposes. Trusting the request, the complainant handed over the passbook, ATM card, cheque book, and the mobile SIM card linked to the account.

A few days later, growing suspicious, he questioned Ibrahim and managed to retrieve the passbook and other items. Upon visiting the bank and speaking with the manager, he learned that five cybercrime complaints had been registered against the account from different states, resulting in the account being frozen.

When confronted again, Ibrahim failed to provide a satisfactory explanation. Subsequently, the complainant started receiving calls from foreign numbers and WhatsApp contacts. The callers accused him of repeatedly contacting their associates and demanded he pay ₹1 lakh, later escalating the demand to ₹2 lakh.

They issued direct death threats, warning that failure to pay would result in his life being taken. The fraudsters further blackmailed him by saying that if he informed anyone about handing over the account, they would file a complaint against him and force him to pay them money. Police have registered the case and initiated an investigation.

Dakshina Kannada Adds Five More Centres for This Year's II PUC Exams

MANGALURU

Dakshina Kannada district has expanded the number of examination centres for the ongoing Second PUC examinations compared to the previous year. Officials added five additional centres this time, bringing the total from last year's 54 to 59.

Of these five new centres, three have been allocated within Mangaluru city limits, while the remaining two are distributed across other taluks in the district.

The current distribution of centres stands as follows: Mangaluru has 21, Bantwal 6, Belthangady 8, Puttur 5, Sullia 2, Kadaba 5, Moodbidri 6, Ullal 4, and Mulki 2.

These examination facilities are spread across 15 government colleges, 22 aided private colleges, and 22 unaided private colleges in the district.

Enrolment figures for the Second PUC exams this year in Dakshina Kannada show 3,724 students in the Arts stream, 15,504 in Commerce, and 18,559 in Science, reflecting the steady year-on-year increase in candidates.

Bhatkal Youth Arrested in Kavoor with Ganja and MDMA Worth Over ₹11 Lakh

MANGALURU

Mangaluru police have arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly attempting to sell banned narcotic substances on a public road in the Bantakal area. The accused is Mohammad Rayees Sheikh, a resident of Azad Nagar, Shedkuli in Bhatkal taluk, Uttara Kannada district.

Around noon on February 25, officers from Kavoor Police Station, while on routine patrol, noticed a youth behaving suspiciously beside a scooter on the left side of the Bantakal public road. Upon questioning him, the individual—identified as Suhaan from Kundapura—admitted he was waiting there to deliver narcotic drugs to a person from Mangaluru.

From his possession, police recovered and seized a packet containing approximately 560 grams of cannabis, which emitted a strong odour. They also confiscated a separate packet holding 384 grams of white crystal-like MDMA substance. In addition, officers took custody of a mobile phone. The total value of the seized narcotics and items stands at ₹11.52 lakh.

A case has been registered at Kavoor Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

Senior Citizen Loses ₹1.77 Crore in Online US Commodities Investment Scam

MANGALURU

Mangaluru police have registered a case at the CEN Police Station following a complaint from a 74-year-old man who was cheated of ₹1,77,64,668.22 in an elaborate online investment fraud involving supposed American commodities trading.

The incident began on December 24, 2025, when the complainant received a call from an unknown number bearing a United Kingdom code. The caller introduced himself as Shoaib Ghori and convinced the elderly victim that investing in online American commodities would yield exceptionally high profits.

He assured the man that funds sent in Indian rupees would be converted to US dollars and invested on his behalf. Communication continued thereafter through emails, WhatsApp messages, and phone calls.

> 74-year-old Mangaluru resident duped via calls from UK-number fraudster promising high returns; transferred over ₹1.77 crore through RTGS, NEFT, and IMPS between January 5 and February 2 after initial small profits shown.

Trusting the promises, the complainant first transferred a small amount as an initial investment, after which a modest sum was credited to his account as "profits," building further confidence.

Encouraged by this, between January 5 and February 2, he made multiple transfers totaling ₹1,77,64,668.22 to various bank accounts provided by the fraudster, using RTGS, NEFT, and IMPS methods.

However, no further returns, dividends, or withdrawal of the principal amount ever materialised, and all contact ceased, leaving the victim fully swindled.

CEN police have formally recorded the case and launched operations to trace the accused and recover the defrauded money.

QUICK READ

Gruha Lakshmi Scheme Funds Credited to Deceased Beneficiaries

Bengaluru

The Gruha Lakshmi scheme, one of the five flagship guarantees of the Siddaramaiah-led government, has come under scrutiny after it was found that funds were credited to the bank accounts of deceased beneficiaries. Under the scheme, the woman head of a household receives ₹2,000 per month as financial assistance. However, recent findings have revealed large-scale discrepancies in beneficiary records. According to official sources, nearly 69,000 bank accounts belonging to deceased individuals received payments amounting to ₹79 crore under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. The irregularity has raised concerns within the government, as it adds financial strain and highlights gaps in data verification and beneficiary tracking mechanisms.

Students Advised Not to Take Admission in Unrecognised Institution

Bengaluru

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued a public warning stating that the Bengaluru-based Global Human Peace University is a fake institution and not recognised under the UGC Act, 1956. The regulatory body has advised students and parents not to seek admission in the institution, as any degrees or diplomas awarded by it will be invalid for higher education or government employment. According to the UGC, the so-called university is operating from #1035, 4th Block, near Golden Heights, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru. However, it does not have recognition under Section 2(f) or Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

Healthy Families Build a Strong Nation: Minister Hebbalkar

Bengaluru

Women and Child Development Minister Lakshmi Hebbalkar on Friday said that healthy families build a healthy nation, and a healthy nation, in turn, creates a strong future. She was speaking after inaugurating the Women's Mental Health Summit Mpowering Minds 2026 held at a private hotel in Bengaluru. Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized that healthy women are the foundation of healthy families. She underlined the importance of prioritizing women's mental well-being, stating that mental health is not a subject to be ignored but one that directly impacts quality of life and societal progress. Congratulating the Mpower organisation for its decade-long service in the field of mental health, Hebbalkar said Bengaluru has always been a city of ideas.

DGR Hosts Major Job Fair for Ex-Servicemen in Bengaluru

Over 850 veterans and 51 companies participated, offering 780 diverse opportunities

BENGALURU

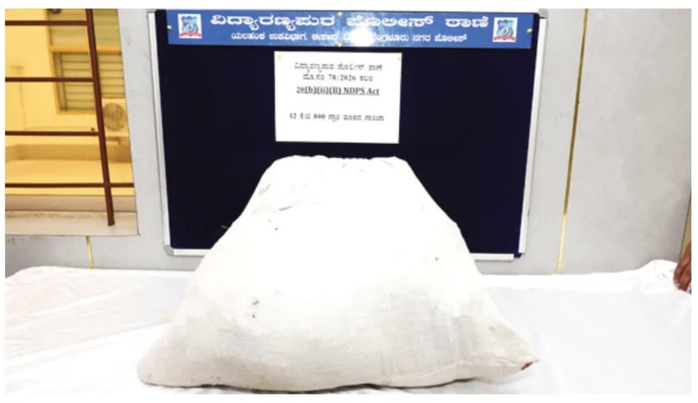
The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), functioning under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DoESW), Ministry of Defence, successfully organised an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Job Fair at the MEG & Centre in Bengaluru on February 27, 2026. The event served as a significant platform to connect retired armed forces personnel with leading employers from across the country.

The job fair witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 850 Ex-Servicemen and 51 prominent national and multinational companies. Together, they brought forward over 780 job opportunities spanning diverse sectors including manufacturing, information technology, logistics, security services, administration and corporate management. The initiative aimed to support veterans in securing meaningful second careers after their dedicated service to the nation.

The event was inaugurated by Lt Gen JK Gera, Commandant of ASC Centre & College, along with Cmde Vikrant Kishore, Principal Director, DGR. The senior officers interacted extensively with participating veterans and corporate representatives, gaining insights into emerging employment trends, industry expectations and the skill alignment of Ex-Servicemen with current market demands. Their presence underscored the Armed Forces' continued commitment to the welfare and professional resettlement of veterans.

Dr. Enti Ranga Reddy, Chairman and Managing Director of Legend Technologies (India) Pvt. Ltd. and Co-Chairman of SIDM Karnataka, graced the occasion as the Corporate Guest of Honour. He commended the professionalism, discipline and leadership qualities of Ex-Servicemen, highlighting their immense value to the corporate sector. Major recruiters at the job fair included Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Genpact, Cemindia and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts, among several other reputed organisations. Notably, BEL conducted an on-the-spot written examination during the event, and 12 Ex-Servicemen were shortlisted for interviews, reflecting the seriousness of recruitment efforts.

The job fair provided a vital opportunity for veterans to showcase their technical, managerial and administrative expertise while enabling companies to access a highly skilled and disciplined talent pool. The initiative further reinforced DGR's commitment to facilitating smooth transitions for Ex-Servicemen into civilian careers and strengthening their integration into the broader workforce.



Sixteen Drug Peddlers Arrested in Bengaluru

Police seize narcotics worth ₹5.24 crore in coordinated citywide crackdown.

BENGALURU

In a major anti-narcotics operation, the Bengaluru City Police on Friday arrested 16 drug peddlers, including two women and eight individuals from other states, and seized contraband valued at ₹5.24 crore. The coordinated crackdown targeted the movement and distribution of illegal substances across multiple parts of the city.

Addressing a press conference, Seemanth Kumar Singh, Commissioner of Bengaluru Police, said the haul included 3,000 MDMA ecstasy pills weighing 1 kg and 939 grams, 230 grams of MDMA crystals, 48 kg and 750 grams of ganja, and 306 grams of hydro ganja. The seizures mark one of the significant drug busts in the city in recent months.

We received credible information about the movement and distribution of narcotics across several police limits in the city, the Commissioner said. Acting on the intelligence inputs, the Narcotics Wing of the City Crime Branch, along with local police teams, launched simultaneous raids in different areas to dismantle the supply network.

Police teams from Marathahalli, Vidyaranyapura, Mahadevapura, Govindapura, Chamarajpet, S R Nagar, and Nandini Layout police stations carried out coordinated early morning operations. The swift and synchronised action resulted in the arrest of all 16 accused during the raids.

According to the police, preliminary investigations revealed that the accused were part of an organised network involved in sourcing banned substances from interstate and international suppliers. During interrogation, the accused confessed to procuring banned substances, including MDMA pills, MDMA crystals, ganja and hydro ganja, from interstate and international sources at low prices and selling them locally for higher profits, Singh stated.

Officials said the accused targeted city-based consumers, including students and young professionals, by distributing drugs through discreet channels. The police are now probing the wider supply chain to identify key suppliers and financiers behind the racket.

Further investigation is underway to trace the origin of the seized narcotics and to determine whether more individuals are linked to the network. The Bengaluru City Police reiterated their commitment to intensifying anti-drug operations to curb the menace and ensure public safety.

Model initiative in B'luru aims to promote economic self-reliance and dignity

Free Auto Driving Training for Women, Transgenders Launched

BENGALURU

In a significant and progressive step toward empowering women and marginalized transgender persons, a free auto driving training programme has been launched in Bengaluru to promote economic self-reliance. The initiative is designed to help participants secure sustainable livelihoods and integrate more confidently into the mainstream workforce. Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy assured full support and encouragement from the State Government for the scheme.

The programme was formally inaugurated at BTM Layout in Bengaluru. It has been jointly organised by the Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC) and CGI as part of their social empowerment efforts. Addressing the gathering, the Minister lauded the organisers for identifying communities that have long remained on the fringes of society and providing them with practical skill-based training to stand on their own feet.

He emphasized that such initiatives are crucial in ensuring that women and transgender persons gain access to dignified employment opportunities. By equipping them with driving skills and related training, the programme seeks to open doors to self-employment in the auto-rickshaw sector, thereby offering financial independence and long-term stability.

The training camp includes professional driving instruction along with essential skill development components aimed at enhancing confidence, communication abilities, and awareness of traffic regulations. Participants will also receive guidance on obtaining driving licences and understanding the procedures involved in operating commercial vehicles.

Minister Ramalinga Reddy reiterated that the government remains committed to inclusive development and social justice. He stated that empowering vulnerable sections of society through skill-based initiatives not only improves their economic standing but also strengthens the social fabric of the city.

The initiative is being viewed as a model step toward inclusive growth, with hopes that similar programmes will be expanded to other parts of the state in the coming months.

CM Pays Tribute to Former CM K.C. Reddy

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah paid rich tributes to former Chief Minister K.C. Reddy on his death anniversary, stating that the late leader's ideals continue to inspire and guide the state in its development journey.

Speaking to the media after garlanding the statue of K.C. Reddy, the Chief Minister recalled his immense contributions to the state and the nation. He said that K.C. Reddy was the first Chief Minister of the state in independent India and played a vital role during a crucial phase in its political and administrative evolution.

Siddaramaiah highlighted that K.C. Reddy had actively participated in the freedom struggle and had endured imprisonment multiple times for the cause of the nation. His commitment to public service and dedication to democratic values were exemplary, he noted. The Chief Minister further said that K.C. Reddy played a significant role in the unification and administration of the erstwhile Mysore State. During his tenure as Chief Minister, and later as a Union Minister and Governor, he continued to serve the people with integrity and commitment.

He also pointed out that K.C. Reddy worked tirelessly towards industrial development in Karnataka, contributing to the establishment of several factories and laying a strong foundation for the state's economic growth. Describing him as a sincere and principled political leader, Siddaramaiah said his legacy remains a guiding force for present and future generations.

Offering prayers for the departed soul, the Chief Minister said, May God grant eternal peace to his soul.

Karaga Festival Dates Announced in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

The dates for the world-renowned Bengaluru Karaga Shaktyotsava, a historic and cultural hallmark of the city, have been officially announced. The grand festival will commence with flag hoisting on March 24, marking the beginning of the 11-day celebrations. The main Karaga Shaktyotsava procession will take place at midnight on April 1, coinciding with the auspicious Chaitra Pournami.

The festival, deeply rooted in centuries-old tradition, is dedicated to Adishakti Draupadi Devi and is considered one of South India's oldest and most unique religious celebrations. As part of the rituals leading up to the main event, the Hasi Karaga ceremony will be held on March 30 at around 4 am. This marks an important preliminary ritual before the grand midnight procession.

For the 16th time, priest A. Gnanendra Swamy will carry the sacred Karaga, continuing a longstanding spiritual lineage. He had also carried the Karaga during last year's celebrations. The priest, dressed traditionally and balancing the floral pyramid structure symbolising the goddess, leads the procession through the streets of Bengaluru amid devotional fervour.

The Bengaluru Karaga is known for its vibrant night procession, where thousands of devotees gather to witness the spectacle. The Karaga, adorned with flowers and carried on the priest's head, represents Draupadi Devi and is taken in a grand procession across key parts of the city. The event symbolizes communal harmony, devotion, and Bengaluru's rich cultural heritage.

With a tradition spanning centuries, the festival typically lasts between nine and eleven days during the Chaitra month full moon.

BJP MLA Lamani's Bail Plea Heard

BENGALURU

According to the prosecution, Lamani was allegedly caught red-handed by Lokayukta officials while accepting an 11 percent commission.

The bail application of BJP MLA Chandru Lamani, arrested in connection with allegedly accepting ₹5 lakh from a contractor, came up for hearing before the Special Court for MPs and MLAs in Bengaluru on Friday. The case pertains to an alleged bribery incident involving a public works contract.

Senior advocate Ashok Haranahalli appeared on behalf of Chandru Lamani and presented arguments seeking bail before the court. During the proceedings, the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) sought additional time to present detailed objections and arguments in the matter. Considering the request, the Special Court adjourned the hearing to tomorrow for further consideration.

According to the prosecution, Lamani was allegedly caught red-handed by Lokayukta officials while accepting an 11 percent commission from a contractor for the construction of a retaining wall project. The Lokayukta team reportedly conducted a trap operation following a complaint from the contractor, who alleged that the MLA had demanded a bribe in connection with clearing payments and facilitating the project work.

Investigators claim that the amount of ₹5 lakh was part of the agreed commission related to the contract. Soon after the alleged transaction, Lokayukta officials swooped in and apprehended the MLA. The incident has triggered political ripples, with opposition parties demanding strict action and transparency in the investigation.

The defence, however, is expected to challenge the prosecution's claims and seek relief on legal grounds during the next hearing. The case has drawn significant public attention, as it involves an elected representative facing serious corruption charges. Further proceedings in the matter will continue before the Special Court, which will decide on the bail plea after hearing detailed arguments from both sides.

College Girls Drugged, Gang-Raped in Bengaluru

BENGALURU

A shocking case that has sent ripples across the city has come to light in Bengaluru, where a group of accused allegedly targeted college girls, drugged them, and subjected them to gang rape.

Police investigations have revealed disturbing details about the modus operandi of the gang, which reportedly used narcotics and intoxicating pills to assault unsuspecting young women.

According to the police, the accused specifically targeted students from reputed colleges. The gang allegedly befriended the victims and invited them to private parties under the pretext of social gatherings and entertainment. During these parties, drugs and intoxicants were allegedly mixed with alcohol and served to the young women. Once the victims became semi-conscious or unconscious, the accused allegedly sexually assaulted them.

DAYTIME POWER ASSURANCE

Govt Assures Seven Hours Daytime Power to Farmers

BENGALURU

The State Government is committed to providing farmers with uninterrupted seven hours of daytime electricity for agricultural pump sets, Energy Minister K.J. George has said. He stated that the solarisation of agricultural feeders is being accelerated under the Kusum-C scheme to achieve this objective.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Regional Congress office on Friday and receiving grievances from party leaders and workers, the Minister said the government aims to generate 2,500 megawatts of solar power by solarising substations that supply electricity to the agriculture sector. Through the Kusum-C scheme, we are taking steps to ensure seven hours of daytime power supply to farmers. Under the Kusum-B scheme, we are providing solar pump sets with up to 80 percent subsidy, which is the highest in the country. This is a revolutionary step by the Energy Department for the agriculture sector, he said.

He noted that the Energy Department has been playing a crucial role in the state's development by ensuring reliable electricity supply to both citizens and farmers. Under the Gruha Jyothi scheme, up to 200 units of free electricity are being provided to domestic consumers, benefiting around 1.65 crore families across the state. We are utilising all available resources to work for the welfare of the people, especially farmers, he added.

The Minister further said that integrating solar energy with agricultural activities has helped reduce the load on power transformers and curb electricity theft. He emphasized that the state has made significant progress in power generation while maintaining a reliable transmission network.

Highlighting the government's guarantee schemes, George said they have strengthened the financial position of families. The government allocated ₹55,000 crore last year for these guarantees, with each family receiving benefits worth about ₹5,000. He claimed that Karnataka now ranks number one in per capita income in the country. However, he alleged that despite contributing nearly ₹4 lakh crore in taxes, the state receives only around ₹60,000 crore in return from the Centre, accusing it of hindering the state's development.

QUICK READ

Student Clubs introduced for B.E. students in Chikkaballapur

Chikkaballapur
Chintamani Government Polytechnic, under Visvesvaraya Technological University, organized a Student Club Program for 2025-26 B.E. students. The program was inaugurated by College Principal Dr. Basavaraj, who explained the importance of student clubs and their role in learning and skill development. Heads of departments introduced clubs including the Web Development Club, Mechanical Brainstorming Club, Renewable Energy Club, and e-Invention Club, highlighting their objectives. Students, teaching, and non-teaching staff from the Computer Division participated actively. The initiative aims to enhance practical knowledge, teamwork, and innovation among engineering students.

Gym trainer stabbed by girlfriend over affair

Ramanagar
A shocking incident took place on Thursday night near Silk Farm Quarters in Bidadi when a young gym trainer was stabbed by his girlfriend over an alleged affair. The victim, 27-year-old Venugopal, has been dating 30-year-old Sudha for the past 5–6 years. Sources say that Venugopal had recently been keeping distance from Sudha, which reportedly angered her. Believing he was in contact with another woman, Sudha called him to her house and stabbed him during a confrontation. After the attack, Sudha voluntarily surrendered at the Bidadi police station. Venugopal was immediately admitted to a private hospital in Bidadi, where he received treatment and is now reported to be out of danger.
The Bidadi police have registered a case and are investigating the matter.

Minister Krishna Byregowda distributes benefits to 25,000 farmers

Minister Byregowda said reforms provide permanent land deeds, with Tehsildars ensuring transparent delivery directly to farmers, avoiding repeated office visits

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda highlighted the government's transformative efforts in the revenue department, stating that decades-old issues such as Darakastu Podi, Pouti accounts, and revenue village formation have now been resolved, bringing relief to farmers and other beneficiaries. Speaking at the Revenue Service Dedication Convention and Special Revenue Village Campaign 2.0 near Chokkahalli, Chikkaballapur, he inaugurated the distribution of various facilities to 25,000 beneficiaries.

Minister Byregowda emphasized that the reforms have provided permanent land title deeds, enabling farmers to become rightful owners of their cultivated lands. Under a non-counterfeit system, Tehsildars act as Sub-Registrars to ensure transparency and deliver deeds directly to beneficiaries, eliminating the need for repeated visits to offices.

He detailed that the government has cleared 18.5 lakh pending death accounts, ensuring that property and revenue rights are transferred to rightful heirs. The Bhu Suraksha Yojana has digitized 71 crore pages of land records, allowing beneficiaries to access their revenue documents online conveniently. The minister also assured that soon, multiple revenue documents such as Pahani, Sketch Copy, EC, MR, and Aakar Band will be available at a single point online.

During the program, 3,000 Darakastu Podis and 2,000 revenue village rights were distributed, along with 16,500 death account settlements and 3,500 social security sanction letters, with further distribution planned in the coming months. The initiative also included awareness sessions on Panch Guarantee Schemes and honored 30 revenue department staff for their dedication.

Minister Byregowda lauded the district administration for its efficient planning and execution, calling it a historic milestone in the revenue department. The event was attended by prominent officials including District In-Charge Minister Dr. MC Sudhakar, District Collector G. Prabhu, Tehsildars, Deputy Collectors, and other departmental officers, along with beneficiaries and public representatives.

This program represents a significant step toward empowering farmers, ensuring land rights, and providing social security, reflecting a people-centric approach in the revenue administration of Karnataka.

Free hearing aids distributed to 111 children in Chikkaballapur

The event, organized by district authorities and NGOs at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall, highlighted Dr. Sudhakar's emphasis on addressing hidden childhood disabilities like hearing and vision impairments

CHIKKABALLAPUR

Under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), 111 children under 18 with hearing impairments in Chikkaballapur district were provided with free hearing aids, in a program described by Higher Education and District In-Charge Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar as a "meaningful humanitarian action."

The event was organized jointly by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, and NGOs including Rotary Raj Mahal Vilas, Movate, and Samvaad Foundation, India, and held at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Hall of the Panchayat. Dr. Sudhakar emphasized the importance of recognizing and addressing disabilities that may not be visible at birth but manifest as children grow, such as hearing and vision impairments.

Under the RBSK program, children receive free health checkups four times a year, while school children are screened twice annually. Those requiring further treatment, including hearing aids, glasses, or surgery, are provided assistance at no cost.

Each child receiving a hearing aid was also given instructions on proper use, maintenance, and seasonal care. Specialist doctors provided guidance, and a card with detailed usage instructions was issued to every child. The department plans to conduct a follow-up session next week to reinforce training and ensure the devices are used effectively.

District Collector G. Prabhu highlighted that under RBSK, the district has screened over 2.12 lakh children and provides free surgeries, glasses, and hearing aids to children in need. He assured that these services would continue to expand for maximum impact.

Other dignitaries present included Zilla Panchayat CEO Dr. Y. Naveen Bhatt, District Health and Family Welfare Officer Dr. Mahesh Kumar, and representatives from the collaborating NGOs. Parents, beneficiaries, and public officials also attended the program, which aimed to enhance health, confidence, and opportunities for children with disabilities in the district.

NIELIT to conduct recruitment interview on March 11

CHITRADURGA

The National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Extension Center will hold a direct recruitment interview on March 11 at 9 am for two contractual teaching posts. The interview will take place at the GTTC Building, Old Bangalore Road, Chitradurga City. Candidates with degrees in Electronics, Computer Science, B.E. in IT, B.Tech, M.C.A., or BCA are eligible. Applicants must bring a CV, self-attested educational copies, and one set of original documents. For details, contact Administrator Dr. Ranasharma at 9864020005 or 9995427802, or visit www.nielit.gov.in/calicut.

Among 16 districts exceeding 80% progress, Tumakuru topped, improving from 4.45% in the previous review meeting rapidly

Tumakuru tops state in voter revision

TUMAKURU

Tumakuru district has secured first place in Karnataka for its performance in the ongoing Comprehensive Electoral Roll Revision, achieving 91.19 per cent progress.

Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer V. Ramachandran congratulated the district during an online meeting held with Deputy Commissioners across the state. He appreciated the efforts of Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan and her team for effectively carrying out voter list mapping and family data matching.

Out of 16 districts that recorded more than 80 per cent progress, Tumakuru emerged as the top performer. The CEO noted that during the previous review meeting, the district's progress stood at just 4.45 per cent, showing significant improvement within a short period.

Taluks including Turuvekere, Chikkanayakanahalli, Koratagere, Tiptur, Gubbi, Madhugiri and Tumakuru also delivered commendable results. The Chief Electoral Officer extended his appreciation to the respective Tahsildars and Assistant Returning Officers for their dedicated work.

He directed all districts to aim for 95 per cent progress by the next review meeting. He also instructed officials in taluks where work has slowed to accelerate the revision process and ensure accuracy in the electoral rolls.

Following the state-level meeting, Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan conducted a review meeting with district officials and urged them to work towards achieving the 95 per cent target.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Dr. N., Municipal Corporation Commissioner Shubhava, District Election Tahsildar Nagabhushan and other officers were present.

District strengthens guarantee schemes, ensures transparency

CHITRADURGA

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority President R. Sivanna has ordered immediate action to stop payments under the Grilahakshmi Yojana to deceased beneficiaries. Speaking at the progress review meeting of Panch Guarantee Schemes at the Zilla Panchayat Mini Hall, he emphasized collecting death certificates with the help of Anganwadi workers and submitting verified reports to the state through the Child Development Project Officer. Payments to accounts of deceased beneficiaries must be stopped without delay.

Deputy Director of Women and Child Development Vijay Kumar reported that 3,98,667 women are registered under Grilahakshmi Yojana in the district, with 3,86,770 having already received funds, achieving 97 percent progress. He added that e-governance tools are being used to remove 8,843 deceased beneficiaries from payment lists, and door-to-door verification by Anganwadi workers and village accountants will be completed within 15 days.

The meeting also addressed concerns over rice smuggling under the Annabhagya scheme. Committee members criticized misuse by affluent families with BPL cards, urging authorities to enforce transparency. They recommended installing information boards at all fair price shops to ensure accountability and prevent exploitation.

In preparation for International Women's Day, Sivanna directed officials to celebrate the event across Anganwadi centers, inviting Grilahakshmi beneficiaries and discussing the empowerment and reach of women-focused schemes.

The Shakti Yojana, which has benefited over 550 crore women, will also be celebrated at taluk bus stations with participation from women passengers and Guarantee Committee members.

Additionally, unemployed graduates under the Yuvanidhi scheme will receive skill development training alongside allowances to enhance employment opportunities. Sivanna stressed the need for wide publicity and awareness campaigns at the village level to ensure government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary.

Officials urged to strengthen guarantee schemes implementation

CHITRADURGA

District Guarantee Scheme Implementation Authority President R. Sivanna has directed immediate action to stop payments under the Grilahakshmi Yojana to deceased beneficiaries. Speaking at the progress review meeting of Panch Guarantee Schemes at the Zilla Panchayat Mini Hall, he emphasized using Anganwadi workers to trace details of deceased beneficiaries and submit verified reports to the state via the Child Development Project Officer.

Deputy Director of Women and Child Development, Vijay Kumar, reported that 3,98,667 women have registered in the district under Grilahakshmi Yojana, with 3,86,770 having already received funds, achieving 97 percent progress. He added that e-governance data is being used to remove 8,843 deceased beneficiaries from the payment list, with Anganwadi workers and village accountants collecting death certificates door-to-door. The review process is expected to complete within 15 days.

During the meeting, committee members raised concerns about rice smuggling under the Annabhagya scheme, highlighting that some financially well-off families continue to claim subsidized rice unfairly. Sivanna urged authorities to ensure transparency by installing information boards at fair price shops and taking action against misuse.

In preparation for International Women's Day, Sivanna instructed officials to celebrate the event across all Anganwadi centers by inviting Grilahakshmi beneficiaries. He emphasized discussions on women's empowerment and the outreach of government schemes at every center.

The Shakti Yojana, which has benefited over 550 crore women statewide, will be celebrated at all taluk bus stations with the participation of women passengers and Guarantee Committee members. Additionally, unemployed graduates under the Yuvanidhi scheme are to receive skill development training along with their allowances to enhance employment opportunities.

Sivanna stressed the importance of wide publicity and awareness creation at the village level to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are informed about the Guarantee Schemes.

Land approved for new DC office

CHITRADURGA

The State government has approved 6.30 acres of land for constructing a new District Collector's office building in Chitradurga city. The decision was taken at a joint meeting held in Bengaluru under the leadership of Planning and Statistics Minister and District In-charge Minister D. Sudhakar and Horticulture Minister S. S. Mallikarjun.

For the new building, 6.10 acres belonging to the Horticulture Department and 0.20 acres from the Hopcoms area will be allotted, making a total of 6.30 acres. In exchange, 20 acres of land in Survey Nos. 96 and 101 of Chikkapur village in Hireguntanur Hobli of Chitradurga taluk will be given to the Horticulture Department.

Earlier, the District Collector's office constructed near Kunchiganalu was located far from the city, causing inconvenience to the public. Considering public interest, the building was handed over to Chitradurga Medical College. For the past year, efforts were underway to identify suitable land within city limits for a new office. Ministers, MLAs and senior officials had held several discussions at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru and during the Belagavi session.

It was also decided that space will be provided for the Horticulture Department office within the new Collectorate building.

MLAs T. Raghumurthy, N.Y. Gopalakrishna and K.C. Virendra Pappy, along with District Collector T. Venkatesh, Horticulture Department Joint Director Savitha and other senior officials, attended the meeting.

Chitradurga holds special training for cooperative societies

CHITRADURGA

A one-day district-level special training program for cooperative societies was held today at Cooperative Bhavan, BL Gowda Layout, Kelagote, Chitradurga, organized jointly by the Karnataka State Cooperation Mahamandal, Chitradurga District Cooperative Union, and Chitradurga District Co-operative Central Bank. The program aimed to educate cooperative society leaders on their roles, responsibilities, and recent changes in cooperative laws.

The training was inaugurated by R. Ramareddy, Co-op Ratna Awardee and Director of the Chitradurga District Cooperative Union. He highlighted the benefits of continuous training and encouraged participants to adopt new practices in their societies for economic growth.

Leaders from Challakere, Hiriyur, and Molakalmuru taluks, including past presidents of primary agricultural cooperative societies, participated actively.

R. Malleshappa, Sahakar Ratna Awardee and Director, spoke about recent amendments in the Cooperative Societies Act and their relevance for elections and newly elected boards. He emphasized that awareness of legal changes will help chairpersons and CEOs manage their societies efficiently and foster economic development within their associations.

Vice President J.R. Ravikumar presided over the program and explained that the Chitradurga District Cooperative Union serves as the mother organization for 1,087 cooperative societies, with 779 currently functional. He noted that all cooperative societies must have membership in the union as per recent amendments, and urged the 427 pending societies to register and participate in training programs to enhance governance.

BANKS EMPOWER WOMEN

Banks urged to boost SHG credit

CHITRADURGA

Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Dr. Rangaswamy has urged banks to extend more credit facilities to Self Help Groups (SHGs) to support rural development and women's empowerment.

He was speaking after inaugurating a one-day district-level bankers' training workshop organised by National Rural Livelihoods Mission–Sanjeevini, Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Organization, along with the Zilla Panchayat and District Performance Management Unit at the Zilla Panchayat Hall.

Dr. Rangaswamy said SHGs are actively engaged in livelihood activities across rural areas and have shown strong progress through collective efforts. He noted that nearly Rs 85 crore has been allocated as Community Capital Fund to unions. By using this fund as internal loans, women members have improved their social and economic conditions.

Chief Planning Officer Gayatri highlighted that SHGs play a major role in strengthening the rural economy. She appealed to banks to recognise their work and provide greater financial support and respect to their initiatives.

Project Director Jayalakshmi requested banks to assist SHG members in accessing insurance schemes such as PMJJBI and PMSBY. She also asked bank officials to guide groups in securing loan linkages and ensure timely financial assistance for their activities. District Programme Manager B. Yogeswarappa delivered the introductory address and explained the objectives of the workshop, focusing on better coordination between banks and SHGs.

Lead Bank Manager Raghavendra, National Resource Person Dixit, NRLM district and taluk staff, and managers of various banks in the district participated in the workshop.

QUICK READ

Applications open for mobile canteen vehicle subsidy

Udupi

The Udupi Tourism Department has invited applications for a subsidy program under the SCSP/TSP to support small businesses. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries can receive up to 70% of the cost, capped at ₹5 lakh, for purchasing a mobile canteen vehicle after completing one-month skill development training. Seven candidates—four from SC and three from ST—will be selected. Applicants must be 20–55 years old and have passed at least the 10th standard. The last date to apply is March 13. Forms and details are available at the Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Collector's Office Complex, Manipal, Tel: 0820-2574868.

Foundation stone to laid for Udupi Carpet project

Udupi

The Udupi District Administration and Youth Empowerment Department will lay the foundation stone for the Udupi Carpet Project on March 4. The initiative aims to support women, children, senior citizens, and differently-abled individuals in the district. The program will be chaired by Gurme Suresh Shetty and attended by Lakshmi R. Hebbalkar along with local representatives, community organizers, and district administration officials. The project focuses on empowerment and development programs, providing resources and support for vulnerable sections of society in Udupi.

Deputy Lokayukta visits Nittoor sewage treatment plant

Justice Veerappa directed filing a complaint against KSPCB's Kirti Kumar, citing delayed plant upgrades and severe water pollution in Udupi

During the visit, Justice Veerappa and his team also inspected

- KSRTC bus stand at Bannanje: Checked food hygiene, expiry dates of ready-to-eat products, kitchen cleanliness, waste disposal, and contractor employee management.
- Udupi Taluk Office: Reviewed file management, registration processes, pending applications, and uniform compliance. He directed disposal of 1,500 pending Tatkal Podi and other land applications within three months.
- Taluk Land Records Office and Sub-Registrar Offices: Verified pending registrations, contract worker practices, and document management.
- District Hospital: Inspected medicine dispensing, laboratory, blood donation center, records management, and administration. He instructed regular checks and closure of inadequately managed hospital canteen.
- Municipal Office: Reviewed property tax collection, vehicle maintenance, biometric records, park management, and encroachments.

UDUPI

Karnataka Deputy Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa visited the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Nittoor and expressed strong displeasure over its poor maintenance, operational deficiencies, and environmental hazards. Despite monthly expenditures of around Rs. 3 lakh, the plant was found to discharge poorly treated black water into the Arabian Sea, emit foul odors, and fail to function according to its six-stage purification system.

Justice Veerappa instructed officials to register a complaint against Kirti Kumar of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) for negligence. He also noted that the upgradation of the plant, sanctioned by the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation (KUIDFC) at a cost of Rs. 30 crore, has not yet commenced. The Deputy Lokayukta warned that the inadequately treated water was polluting aquatic life and potentially harming human health via seafood consumption. He further stated that, among STPs in 18 districts inspected, Udupi's condition was the worst.

Residents of the Indrani River area near Malpe expressed that well water has become unsafe, fish have died, and many suffer from respiratory problems due to chemical contamination and foul odors. Justice Veerappa instructed authorities to systematically clean the riverbanks and ensure proper maintenance of the plant, warning that failure to act could lead to legal action.

Officials present included Deputy Commissioner Inquiry Arvind N.V., District Panchayat CEO Pratik Boyal, Lokayukta Police Superintendent BP Dinesh Kumar, District Additional Superintendent of Police Sudhakar Naik, among others.

Justice Veerappa emphasized that systematic maintenance, accountability, and regular monitoring are essential to prevent environmental hazards and ensure public welfare.

Drug-Free campaign empowers youth in Vijayapura

VIJAYAPURA

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) launched its "Drug-Free Campus & Organ Donation Campaign" in Vijayapura on Friday, urging students and citizens to commit to a healthy, addiction-free future. Speaking at the event, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Bhagavan B.C. emphasized that drug addiction destroys lives, disrupts families, and weakens society. He said only a strong, collective effort can ensure safe and secure communities.

The campaign, part of "Swastha Bharath Shresta Bharath" and "Yuvashuddhi Abiyan", was jointly organized with district colleges, the Dishabodh Foundation, and the Narcotics Control Bureau. Dr. Bhagavan noted that the program has already reached 10 districts, with around 55,000 students and staff from 300 colleges participating in rallies. "Our efforts will continue relentlessly until every campus is completely drug-free," he said.

The walkathon began at Shri Siddeshwara Temple and ended at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Ground, drawing about 6,000 students along with staff and citizens. Dr. Bhagavan urged schools and colleges to adopt structured awareness programs, highlighting that early education on healthy living strengthens the foundation for a drug-free India and Karnataka.

MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal warned that addiction drains youth energy and harms the nation. He appreciated the campaign's efforts in raising awareness about substance abuse and organ donation, calling for students to avoid tobacco and adopt healthy lifestyles. He encouraged citizens to pledge organ donation, noting one donor can save up to eight lives. Sangamesh Babaleshwar, President of the Karnataka Bala Vikas Academy, praised the initiative as a model movement for youth. He urged university leaders to actively participate beyond offices, supporting Dr. Bhagavan's efforts to inspire young people nationwide.

Other dignitaries present included Dr. Gangadhar S. Sambanni, Dr. Shivanand Mastiholi, Laxman Nimbargi, Bhavana R, and Yogi Devaraj, alongside college management, principals, and University Senate and Syndicate members.

The campaign marks the 11th milestone in Vijayapura, also known as the "land of five rivers," reflecting a growing commitment to safe, healthy, and drug-free educational institutions across Karnataka.

Couple killed in head-on crash near Hunsur

HUNSUR

A couple from Biranahalli village lost their lives in a tragic road accident on Thursday morning near Kaggare and Narayanpur.

Nanjundasoma Char, 51, and his wife Netravati, 48, were travelling on a Bajaj Discovery bike to attend a relative's funeral near Ramanathapura in Arakalagudu taluk when a car coming from the opposite direction

hit them head-on.

The impact threw the couple off the bike, leaving them critically injured. They were rushed by ambulance to the taluk public hospital, but doctors declared them dead on arrival. The car driver fled the scene soon after the crash.

Nanjundasoma Char worked as a centering mason in Mysuru and is survived by a son and a daughter. Following a complaint filed by their son Ravikumar, town police registered a case. Inspector Shivaprakash visited the spot, conducted an inspection, and completed post-mortem formalities before handing over the bodies to the grieving family members present.

Eco Club outing promotes environmental awareness in Hunsur

HUNSUR

Environmental awareness is the need of the hour, said Senior Head Teacher Suresh H.S. during an educational outing organized by the Eco Club of the City Government Senior Primary Boys School in Hunsur. He stressed that in today's modern world, children must understand the environment both inside their homes and in the outside world from an early age.

Addressing students and parents, Suresh H.S. explained that classroom learning alone is not enough. Real knowledge, he said, comes when children observe and experience nature directly. Teacher and writer Dr. Maduprasad also shared his views, noting that education becomes meaningful when students connect lessons with real-life surroundings.

S.D.M.C. President Shubha A.S. said the school actively encourages co-curricular activities to support overall development. She added that a strong bond between parents and teachers plays a key role in providing quality education. Vice President Mohammad Rafiq expressed pride over the large participation of students in the outing, calling it a record of sorts for the school.

Several teachers, including Narasimha, Jayarame Gowda, Dr. Chaluvraj, Somasunder, Krishnamurthy, Shobha, Shilpa, Kazima, Pushpa, Radha, Pallavi, Nirmala, Manjula, Venkatesh, Shivaram, Belathur Venkatesh, Santhosh Kumar, Ananda, Rajegowda and Pushpanjali Cheluva, along with parents, were present. A photograph of the event was also shared.

Differently-Abled empowered through three-wheeler distribution

MANDYA

District Commissioner Dr. Kumar emphasized that people with special needs should be recognized and integrated into society.

A three-wheeler distribution program for differently-abled beneficiaries was organized at the District Collector's office with support from corporate and private funds. The initiative aims to help recipients become self-reliant and independent.

Commissioner Kumar highlighted the need to provide educational and job opportunities based on qualifications and promote social programs alongside government initiatives. Ramakrishna, a special-abled beneficiary, received a three-wheeler.

Srujan Sarovar School marks 12 glorious years

HUNASURU

The 12th anniversary celebration of Srujan Sarovar School was held with enthusiasm at Nallur Pala in Hunasuru taluk. The event brought together students, parents, teachers and guests to celebrate the institution's journey in providing quality education.

Young entrepreneur Nadappanahalli Raju attended as the chief guest and was honored by the school committee with a memento. Accepting the honor, Raju assured that he would extend support to meet the basic needs of the school as much as possible.

Special guest Sa Re Ga Ma Pa fame singer Sachin Prakash praised the school's efforts in promoting all-round development of children. He encouraged talented students to participate in the ongoing Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Junior auditions and make use of the opportunity.

Speaking on the occasion, Surendra of Penjahalli highlighted that for the past 12 years, the school has focused on both academic and co-curricular activities. He said this

balanced approach has helped students build confidence to face today's competitive world and requested continued support from parents.

Santosh Kumar, Secretary of Akshaya Irrigation Society, said his organization supports education, health and social service initiatives. Branch President Ani KG, teachers Abhilasha, Shweta, Chikkadevamma, Keshit, Preeti Rani, Vijayalakshmi and Pushpa, along with non-teaching staff and parents, were present.

Row over Urdu pamphlet sparks protest

HUNSUR

Tension rose in Hunsur after local leaders objected to the use of Urdu pamphlets in a recent government program. Members of the Karave organization submitted a complaint letter to the Karnataka government and shared copies of the pamphlet along with photographs as proof.

District President Purushottam said the group also filed a petition and addressed the media, expressing concern over what they called a growing neglect of Kannada in official matters. According to them, Kannada is the constitutional administrative language of the state and must be given top priority in all government activities.

Speakers at the gathering said Karnataka's land, history, culture, and literature have developed through Kannada. They clarified that they are not against any language or community. However, they believe that using another language in official pamphlets for political reasons could hurt the self-respect of Kannadigas.

"Everyone who lives in Karnataka should respect Kannada, learn it, and use it. The government must set an example," leaders stated. They added that any attempt to weaken the role of Kannada in administration would not be acceptable.

The group urged politicians to correct what they called a mistake and avoid repeating it in the future. They emphasized the need for linguistic harmony while ensuring that Kannada's importance is not reduced.

Leaders warned that if such incidents continue, protests may follow. They demanded that Kannada be made mandatory in government programs and official communication across the state.

Several members, including Balarama, Ramesh, Sanaullah, and Munawar Pasha, were present during the submission of the appeal and press interaction.

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd Addl. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
Cri. Misc.No: 1215 /2025
Sri. V. Anjinappa, S/o Late. Venkatappa, Aged about 62 years, R/at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
...Petitioner.
AND; The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura. ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public, that the above named petitioner by name V. Anjinappa has filed this petition to obtain the death certificate of his mother by name Late.Gangamma W/o Late. Venkatappa who was died on 04-05-2013 at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapura, if anybody who have any objection to the above petition or having any rights, claims are hereby informed to take notice of this petition and hereby directed to appear before this Court in person or through person or by their Advocate on 01.04.2026 at 11:00 am. if failed to appear the above petition will be heard and will be placed ex- parte.
Issued as per the order and seal of this Hon'ble Court, on this day of 27.02.2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Minister Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner
Narayana Kumar, Advocate
No. 12, P.L.D.Bank Complex, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 107/2026
LAKSHMIDEVI W/o Late Sannamallanna, Age about 38 Years, R/at 3026, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Mother of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE MUTYALAMMA W/O LATE SANNAMALLAPPA, who was died on 29-12-2005, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd Addl. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
Cri. Misc.No: 1216 /2025
Sri. V. Anjinappa, S/o Late. Venkatappa, Aged about 62 years, R/at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
...Petitioner.
AND; The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura. ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public, that the above named petitioner by name V. Anjinappa has filed this petition to obtain the death certificate of his grand mother by name Late.Thimmakka W/o Late. Muniangaiah who was died on 22-12-1980 at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapura, if anybody who have any objection to the above petition or having any rights, claims are hereby informed to take notice of this petition and hereby directed to appear before this Court in person or through person or by their Advocate on 01.04.2026 at 11:00 am. if failed to appear the above petition will be heard and will be placed ex- parte.
Issued as per the order and seal of this Hon'ble Court, on this day of 27.02.2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Minister Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner
Narayana Kumar, Advocate
No. 12, P.L.D.Bank Complex, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd Addl. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
Cri. Misc.No: 1217 /2025
Sri. V. Anjinappa, S/o Late. Venkatappa, Aged about 62 years, R/at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
...Petitioner.
AND; The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura. ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public, that the above named petitioner by name V. Anjinappa has filed this petition to obtain the death certificate of his Sister by name Late.Lakshmamma W/o Late. Subramani who was died on 12-12-1967 at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapura, if anybody who have any objection to the above petition or having any rights, claims are hereby informed to take notice of this petition and hereby directed to appear before this Court in person or through person or by their Advocate on 01.04.2026 at 11:00 am. if failed to appear the above petition will be heard and will be placed ex- parte.
Issued as per the order and seal of this Hon'ble Court, on this day of 27.02.2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Minister Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner
Narayana Kumar, Advocate
No. 12, P.L.D.Bank Complex, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd Addl. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
Cri. Misc.No: 1218 /2025
Sri. V. Anjinappa, S/o Late. Venkatappa, Aged about 62 years, R/at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
...Petitioner.
AND; The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, Doddaballapura. ... Respondent
PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby informed to the general public, that the above named petitioner by name V. Anjinappa has filed this petition to obtain the death certificate of his grand father by name Late.Munigangaiah S/o Late. Balappa who was died on 03.10.1975 at Vabasandra Village, Sasalu Hobali, Doddaballapura, if anybody who have any objection to the above petition or having any rights, claims are hereby informed to take notice of this petition and hereby directed to appear before this Court in person or through person or by their Advocate on 01.04.2026 at 11:00 am. if failed to appear the above petition will be heard and will be placed ex- parte.
Issued as per the order and seal of this Hon'ble Court, on this day of 27.02.2026
By Order of the Court
Chief Minister Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner
Narayana Kumar, Advocate
No. 12, P.L.D.Bank Complex, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 102/2026
Muthyalakka S/o Gangappa Age about 55 Years, R/at 22, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Mother of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE GANGAMMA W/O LATE GANGAPPA, who was died on 16-05-2010, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 108/2026
Muthyalakka S/o Gangappa Age about 55 Years, R/at 22, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Brother of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE DEVARAJU S/O LATE GANGAPPA, who was died on 17-10-2016, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 109/2026
Muthyalakka S/o Gangappa Age about 55 Years, R/at 22, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Husband of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE NARASIMHA S/O LATE MUTHYALAPPA, who was died on 26-06-1983, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 110/2026
Muthyalakka S/o Gangappa Age about 55 Years, R/at 22, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Father of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE GANGAPPA S/O LATE PAKIRAPPA, who was died on 02-03-2007, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

IN THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC, AT DODDABALLAPURA
C. MISC. No. 103/2026
Peddakka W/o Late Marappa, Age about 59 Years, R/at 22, Ward No. 25, Kumbarpete, Doddaballapura and others PETITIONERS
THE COMMISSIONER,CMC Doddaballapura. RESPONDENT
PAPER PUBLICATION DRAFT PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the petitioners named above have filed the above Petition for seeking a direction to the Commissioner, CMC Doddaballapura to register the death of the Husbund of Petitioner i.e., the deceased LATE MARAPPA S/O LATE THIMMAPPA, who was died on 23-10-2017, at Ward No-25, Kumbarapete, Doddaballapura Town, Bangalore Rural District.
On the above petition is posted on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M. for appearance of interested parties shall appear before the Court on the above said date and time in personally/ their Advocates and file their objections filing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on the 27th day of FEB. 2026, at Doddaballapura.
By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, 2nd Addl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura
Advocate for petitioner: **K.N. Vijaykumar**

NAME CHANGE

I, **SHAIKH GHAOSIYA JAFAR HUSAIN**, W/o Jaffar Nadir Baig, Resident of No.1, Survey no 3, 1st cross Bhuvaneshwari Layout Opposite Medwell Hospital naganathpura Bengaluru -560100 have changed my name to **GHAOSIYA BAIG**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 27.02.2026 before notary A.C.Subbu Swamy Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Shivakumar N** S/o Narayanaswamy @ Narayanaswamy L M Aged about 40 years, R/at Lakkahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sidlaghatta taluk, Chikkaballapur district. I am updating my Father's name from **Narayanaswamy to Narayanaswamy L M** for all the purpose and both refer to the same person. Sworn before **K H Venkatappa**, Advocate & Notary, Chickballapura Vide affidavit Dated: 26/02/2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNITA J W/o JAIRAJ B, R/o H.No.1-4-160/23, Ashapur Road Cross, Datar Colony, Raichur, Karnataka-584101, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AKKANAGAMMA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MANISHA PRAKASH W/o LATE VED PRAKASH, R/o D 603, Purva Westend, Kudlu Gate, Opp Metro Station, Garvebhavi Palya, Bommanahalli, Anekal, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560068, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISHA BHATT.

CH CLASSIFIEDS To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

Rohit Pawar Demands FIR In Ajit Pawar Crash Case

Fresh political tensions rose in Maharashtra over probe into Ajit Pawar's fatal plane crash

MUMBAI

Rohit Pawar has stepped up his demand for a high-level criminal investigation into the plane crash that killed former Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. He met Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Raj Thackeray on Friday, alleging a conspiracy and seeking an FIR against the aviation company involved.

The Learjet 45 carrying Ajit Pawar crashed on January 28 during a second landing attempt in Baramati. While the CBI and CID are probing the case, Rohit Pawar claimed police were blocking efforts to register a criminal complaint. He said he handed research papers and technical documents to the Chief Minister and urged him to raise the issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Rohit Pawar said people want transparency and not a superficial report. He added that a detailed press conference will be held on Monday to reveal more facts.

Rohit Pawar also demanded a memorial at the 'Devagiri' bungalow, and that the Pune Ring Road and Baramati Airport be named after Ajit Pawar.

He sought permanent government employment for the widow of security guard Sudeep Jadhav, who also died in the crash.

Explaining legal hurdles, he said he tried to file a Zero FIR in Mumbai before approaching Baramati and the CID. After meeting him, Raj Thackeray questioned why police refused the FIR and asked if the government feared a proper probe.

The state government said the CID is examining all angles and will act after the final report.

Supreme Court Rejects Bengal's Fresh Objection

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to consider West Bengal government's objection to a training module issued for judicial officers involved in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant said the court trusted its judicial officers and they would not be influenced by any outside instructions. The remarks came after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the state, argued that the Election Commission had issued directions to judicial officers despite the court's earlier order that all procedures would be decided by the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice and a committee.

Sibal told the bench that the training module guided officers on what documents to accept or reject, claiming it went against the spirit of the court's directions. In response, the Chief Justice said the deployed officers were capable of taking independent decisions. "Our orders are clear. We know our judicial officers," the bench observed, adding that neither the poll panel nor the state government should go beyond earlier rulings.

The court also expressed concern over the continuing dispute between the West Bengal government and the Election Commission. On February 20, it passed what it called an "extraordinary" order directing the deployment of serving and retired district judges to assist in the SIR process.

Top court says its judicial officers will not be influenced and refuses to entertain West Bengal's concerns over Election Commission's training module for electoral roll revision work

Later, on February 24, the court allowed the use of civil judges in West Bengal along with 250 district judges. It also permitted judicial officers from Jharkhand and Odisha to help handle around 80 lakh claims and objections related to possible deletions from the voter list.

8 African Cheetahs To Reach Kuno

SHEOPUR

Eight more cheetahs from Africa will arrive at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday morning under India's cheetah revival programme, officials said.

The batch from Botswana includes six females and two males.

They will be flown to Gwalior in an Indian Air Force aircraft late Friday night. From there, two IAF helicopters will carry them to Kuno, where they are expected to land between 9 am and 10 am.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav will release the animals into special enclosures prepared at the park. The cheetahs will remain in quarantine for about a month before being shifted to the wild.

This will be the third batch of cheetahs brought from Africa, after earlier arrivals from Namibia and South Africa. With this group, the total number of cheetahs in India will rise to 46.

Ex-MP Kavitha Cleared In Delhi Excise Case

HYDERABAD

Former MP K Kavitha celebrated on Friday after a court cleared her name in the Delhi excise policy case, calling it politically motivated.

Kavitha posted "Satyameva Jayate" on social media, stating the case was "foisted" against her as part of a political vendetta. She told reporters that the judiciary had cut through the "web of lies" and upheld her faith in the justice system. "I have 100 times said that we have nothing to do with this case. This was politically motivated, targeting Opposition parties, and I am grateful to the judiciary for proving the truth," she said. Kavitha also highlighted the personal toll the case had taken. "Not only me, KCR garu himself has said this is a vendetta on BRS and reflected on me. Who will account for the time I lost with my kids and family?" she asked.

The ex-MP was arrested in March 2024 in connection with corruption and money laundering allegations linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam. She was granted bail by the Supreme Court of India and walked out of Tihar Jail in Delhi on August 29, 2024. Supporters and party leaders welcomed the court's order, emphasizing that the judiciary's decision had vindicated Kavitha and reaffirmed the principle of justice prevailing over political targeting. Kavitha expressed gratitude to everyone who stood by her during the difficult period and said that the verdict was a victory for truth.

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.:ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಬೆ/ಪಿಬಿ–1/ಟೆಂಡರ್–67/2025–26/7522 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

Tender Invited (E- Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi invites short term tenders through E-Procurement from eligible and registered agencies for providing Manpower Services to division office and sub-division offices under this division for the year **2026-27** The estimated contract amount is approximately **Rs.52.82 Lakhs** Earnest Money Deposit **(EMD): Rs.1,05,651.82** Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal. The date of Pre-Bid **Meeting: 04-03-2026 at 11:30 AM,** the last date for submission of tender bid is on **07-03-2026 17:28 PM.** Opening of technical bid is on **09-02-2026 11-00 AM** and Expected Financial bid will be opened on **10-03-2026 11:30 AM.** For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website **http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Belgaum/1968/
Deshpandepublicity/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. DivisonBelagavi

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara), 9th Floor, Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building (PUB), MG Road, Bengaluru-560001.

NO: EE (SN)/TEND/22/2025-26 Date: 26.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Two Cover System)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara Division), Zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Description
1.	Collection of Parking fee in Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building(Public Utility Building), M.G. Road, Bengaluru. **Minimum Reserve Annual License fee : Rs. 34,60,000.00, EMD : Rs. 69,200.00.**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **16.00 hours on 26.03.2026. (2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **06.03.2026 at 15.00 Hrs noon** in the office of the Executive Engineer (Shanthinagara Division), Bengaluru Central City Corporation, 9th floor, Public Utility Building, Bengaluru. **(3)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer (Shanthinagar Division), BCCC, Bengaluru on **27-03-2026 at 16.30 hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagara Division), BCCC

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE WIRELESS
No.1, M. G. Road, Bengaluru-560001.
Phone: +91-80-22942324, Email: spwireless@ksp.gov.in

Tender No: KSP/2025-26/IND0552/Call-2 **Date : 27.02.2026**

Tender Notification (Through e-procurment Portal)

Superintendent of Police Wireless, Bengaluru invited Re-tender for supply of Desktop Computers, 75" LED TV with Movable stand and Video Conference setup with controller, Wired Headphone for **Cyber Crime Helpline-1930** through e-procurement portal. Estimated bid value: Rs. **18.10 Lakhs**. Last date for submission of Pre-bid queries on **03/03/2026 at 11.30 am.** The Last date and time for tender submission **06/03/2026 at 5 pm.** Further details can be obtained by visiting e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For more information, please contact the above office.

DIPR/CP/5920/SSC/2025-26

Sd/- Superintendent of Police, Wireless, Bengaluru.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Phone No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.: 42/2025-26/3358 Date: 24.02.2026

Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Koppa, Kalasa and Sringeri Taluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Max. Approx. Amount put to Tender is Rs. 74.80 lakhs and Min. Approx. amount is Rs. 12.70 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW – 1, 2 & 3. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 24.02.2026 to 10.03.2026 up to 5.30 PM. Technical Bid will be opened on 12.03.2026 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 18.03.2026 at 11.05 AM. If this day is declared as holiday then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/25-26/174/1912

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL DEVELOPMENT PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING PROJECT DIVISION, KALABURAGI

No: EE/RDPRE/PD/KLB/KKRDB/TS/TND/2025-26/933 Date: 26.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of Work & Amount put to tender : **1. KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 309/Call-2 - APT-Rs.1,04,65,796.21, 2.KRRDA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT310/Call-2 APT-RS.1,04,40,348.79,** 2) Head of account : **2025-26 KKRDB,** 3) Class of Contractor : Class-III & above, 4) Issue of Blank Tender Documents : **26.02.2026 to 07.03.2026 upto 4.00** pm, 5) Tender From Fee : As per KPPP Norms, 6) E.M.D. Fee : As Mentioned in KPPP Portal, 7) Receipt of completed tender documents : **26.02.2026 to 07.03.2026 upto 4.00 pm**, 8) Technical Bid opening Date: **09.03.2026 after 4.01 pm.** 9) Financial Bid opening Date: **11.03.2026 after 11.00 pm.** 10) For more details contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, RDPRE Project Division, Rajapur road, Kalaburagi, 11) website address : **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1127/Deshpande Publicity/2025-26

Sd/- **Executive Engineer,** RDPRE Project Division, Kalaburagi

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CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
Teguru, Chikkamagaluru-577133.
Ph: 08262-295347 E-Mail: directorcims2020@gmail.com
Website: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in

No: CIMS/APPO/NON TEACHING/05/2025-26 Date: 25-02-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR NON TEACHING STAFF RECRUITMENT AT CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHIKKAMAGALURU

Applications are invited for recruitment of the following contractual staff on consolidated pay at Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences Chikkamagaluru.

Sl.No	Name of the post	No. of posts called	Nature of
1	Medical Record Technician	01	The initial period of appointment is for 06 month and shall be Extendable every 6 months with one day break based on perfor mance report submitted by the head of the concerned department
2	Audio- Visual Technician	01	
3	Dental Technician	01	
4	OT Technician	05	
5	Ventilator Technician	01	
6	Oxygen Technician	01	
	Total	**10**	

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 1. The terms and conditions of staff to be employed in CIMS, Chikkamagaluru will be as per guidelines of implementation of rules and regulation by Department of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka.**2.** Qualification & Pay: As per notification and guidelines by Department of Medical Education, Government of Karnataka. **3.** The appointment shall be on contract basis on monthly consolidated remuneration. **4.** Appointments shall be bound by CIMS Chikkamagaluru, Bye-laws and C & R rules, and KCSR Rules wherever applicable. **5**. Candidates working in Government sector/ Government Autonomous Medical colleges must produce "No Objection Certificate" from Head of the institute/Competent Authority in which the candidate is presently working. **6**. Candidates shall send their duly filled application forms & other relevant attachments duly self- attested by REGISTRED POST ONLY to the DEAN AND DIRECTOR, CHIKKAMAGALURU INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, TEGURU VILLAGE, CHIKKAMAGALURU-577 133 **7.** Candidate should mention on the top of application envelop "Name of the post applied: - **8.** Last date of receipt of application to the official address is before 5.00 PM on 10-03-2026. **9**. In person submission of application shall not be entertained. **10**. The Candidates should submit application form along with D.D in favor of "The Director, Chikkamagaluru Institute of Medical Sciences" Payable at Chikkamagaluru. **11**. No TA DA will be paid to the Candidates. **12**. For more details on application forms, visit our website: https://cimschikkamagaluru.karnataka.gov.in

Note: If any candidate wishes to apply for more than one post, he/she shall fill application forms for desired posts separately and shall attach Demand Draft for each post separately. APPLICATION FEES ARE NON REFUNDABLE.

Sd/- Dean & Director, CIMS. Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/ckm//ksmca/25-26/178/1917

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVT OF KARNATAKA ENTERPRISE)
Office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Division, Afzalpur- 585301, Email: eeblis@rediffmail.com

No:EE/ KNNL/BLIS/AFZ/TS-1/2025-26/1113 Date: 19/02/2026

PERCENTAGE SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(ONLY THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

On behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme, Division, Afzalpur invites percentage Tenders for the below mentioned works from eligible contractors,

1) Name of work : Name of works (Total 2 Works) will be as per e-portal as per the Indent Numbers:- **(4072, 4051),** 2) Approximate amount put to tender (Rs. Lakhs): **From Rs. 211.74 Lakhs to Rs. 211.86 Lakhs. (as per e-portal),** 3) EMD (Rs.): Rs. 2,12,000/- (as per e-portal), 4) Tender Processing Fee (Non refundable): As per E-procurement, 5) Eligible contractor: KPWD class-1 or Above registration. (as per e-portal), 6) Stipulated period of Work.: 6 Months (as per e-portal)

The dates fixed for submission of tenders through e-procurement is from 26.02.2026 upto 06.03.2026 4.00 PM .Technical Bid will be opened on 07.03.2026, at 4.15 PM. and Financial Bid will be opened on 10.03.2026, at 11:00 AM for further information, the undersigned may be contacted during office hours, and e-portal website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1131/KSMC&A/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, BhimaLIS Division, Afzalpur-585301

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th 'A' Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560038.

No: EE/CVR/KPPP/09/2025-26 **Date: 21-02-2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru for the works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of BCCC or equivalent Registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

(Standard Tender Document - KW-02)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 108, Cox Town for the year 2025-26. **(CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
2	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 108, Cox Town for the year 2025-26. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000/-**
3	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli for the year 2025-26. **(CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
4	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 109, Benniganahalli for the year 2025-26. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000/-**
5	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
6	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 110, C.V. Raman Nagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
7	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura for the year 2025-26. **(CAT-I) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
8	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 111, Kaggadasapura for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
9	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
10	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 112, New Thippasandra for the year 2025-26. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000/-**
11	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
12	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 113, Hoysalanagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
13	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhimanagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
14	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 114, Jeevanbhimanagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 50,000/-**
15	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara for the year 2025-26. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 30.00, EMD (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
16	Filling of Pot Holes in Ward No. 115, Konena Agrahara for the year 2025-26. **(ST) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 20.00, EMD (in Rs.): 25,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. 2)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **06-03-2026 at 15.30 Hours in the Office of the Executive Engineer (C.V. Raman Nagara Division). 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals: **10-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals: **11-03-2026 at 16.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After Approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
C.V. Ramannagara Division, BCCC.

QUICK READ

Teen Delivers Baby During Board Exam

DHAR

A 17-year-old student gave birth to a premature baby in a school washroom during her Class 10 board exam in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district. The incident took place on Tuesday at a private school in Pithampura during the maths paper. Additional Superintendent of Police Parul Belapurkar said the girl complained of severe stomach pain before going to the washroom. She and the newborn were taken to a government health centre and are reported to be stable.

Bomb Threat Emails Spark School Searches

CHANDIGARH

Two private schools in Chandigarh received bomb threat emails on Friday, leading to major security checks. Fire brigade teams, bomb disposal squads, dog squads and an ambulance were sent to the campuses. Police carried out detailed searches, but no suspicious items were found. Officials said similar threat emails were recently reported in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Patiala and parts of Haryana, and were later declared hoaxes. An investigation is underway to trace the sender.

Five Hospitalised After Suspected Gas Leak

INDORE

Five people were admitted to hospitals after a suspected gas leak from a cylinder in Indore on Thursday night. The incident took place in the Raoji Bazaar area when a scrap dealer allegedly tried to cut open a cylinder. Soon after, nearby residents complained of breathing problems, causing panic. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Disesh Aggarwal said the leak was later controlled. Health officials confirmed that all five patients are stable and under observation.

Prime Minister Modi To Visit Tamil Nadu Puducherry

PM Narendra Modi will visit Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 1st March 2026

NEW DELHI

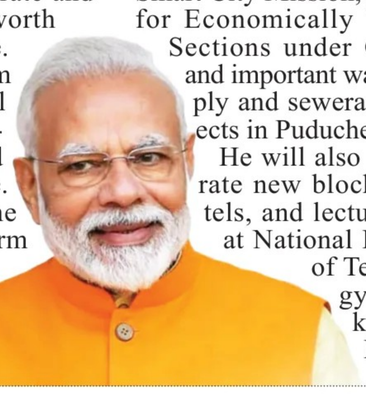
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on 1st March 2026.

After his recent tours of Rajasthan and Gujarat, he will arrive in Chennai on the night of 28th February at around 9 PM.

On 1st March, he will reach Puducherry by 11:45 AM to inaugurate, dedicate to the nation, and lay the foundation stone of development projects worth over Rs. 2,700 crore.

These projects include infrastructure, urban services, industrial growth, education, healthcare, and sustainable development initiatives. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion.

Later, he will travel to Madurai, where at around 3 PM, he will inaugurate and dedicate projects worth over Rs. 4,400 crore.



These projects aim to boost industrial development, education, healthcare, and urban infrastructure. At 4 PM, the Prime Minister will perform darshan and pooja at Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple, Tirupparankundram, Madurai.

Key initiatives include launching e-Buses under the PM e-Bus Seva Initiative, the Integrated Command and Control Centre under the Smart City Mission, housing for Economically Weaker Sections under CITIIS, and important water supply and sewerage projects in Puducherry.

He will also inaugurate new blocks, hostels, and lecture halls at National Institute of Technology Karaikal, Pondicherry University, and modernised facilities at JIPMER's Regional Cancer Centre.

The 750-acre Karasur-Sedarapet Industrial Estate will be dedicated to the nation, featuring Pharma, Textile, and IT Parks, IIT Madras R&D centre, and advanced healthcare facilities.

Additionally, he will lay the foundation stones for water supply projects, 41 rural roads under PMGSY, Heritage Town development, mangrove restoration under MISHTI, and power sector projects under RDSS, supporting employment, environment, and sustainable growth in the region.

Maharashtra Vows Global Recognition For Marathi

MUMBAI

Deputy CM Eknath Shinde pledges to make Marathi a language of culture, employment, and global prominence, promoting education, literature, and administration use.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said on Friday that the state government is committed to making Marathi not just a cultural language, but also one of employment and business. Speaking at a special program, 'Jave Vinodka Gaon', in the Legislative Assembly to celebrate Marathi Language Gaurav Day, he outlined concrete steps to preserve and promote the language.

The event was attended by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar, Legislative Council Chairman Ram Shinde, Deputy Chairman Neelam Gorhe, along with ministers, MLAs, and public representatives. The program was coordinated by Kedar Shinde, Hrishikesh Joshi, Prabhu Desai, Dhanashree Damle, and their team.

Shinde described Marathi as a "sacred stream" carrying thousands of years of culture. He paid tribute to poets, saints, writers, teachers, and scholars, especially Kusumagraj, and stressed that Marathi forms the identity of Maharashtra. He thanked the central government for supporting the state's effort to make Marathi a classical language.

He highlighted policy initiatives such as creating encyclopedias for children, youth, and Olympic achievements, translating Marathi literature into other languages, and promoting its use in administration and commerce.

He also stressed the value of Marathi dialects like Khandeshi, Malvani, Konkani, and Varhadi.

Shinde noted Marathi's presence in technology and social media, and praised the tradition of Marathi humor showcased in 'Java Vinodka Gaava', honoring legends like Acharya Atre and P. L. Deshpande.

Concluding emotionally, Shinde declared, "Marathi in my blood, Marathi in my breath," urging everyone to unite in spreading Marathi globally. He wished all a happy Marathi Language Gaurav Day and called for joint efforts to strengthen the language's heritage.

BRS LEADER K. T. RAMA RAO SAYS THE PARTY BECAME A POLITICAL CASUALTY IN DELHI LIQUOR CASE

KTR Calls BRS Victim Of So-Called Liquor Scam

HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao said on Friday that the party suffered politically due to the so-called liquor scam, which led to losses in both Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.

His remarks came after a Delhi court acquitted former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and 21 others, including KTR's sister, K. Kavitha, in the Delhi liquor policy case.

KTR posted on social media platform X, stating, "Kavita Garu got justice in court today. In the same manner, every case registered against our leaders will be conclusively exposed as false, politically motivated, and fabricated." He added that until truth

prevails, the public will continue to witness reckless allegations from the Congress and BJP, amplified by media trials that aim to mislead, replacing evidence with accusations.

BRS, in power in Telangana since the state's formation in 2014, suffered a major defeat in the 2023 Assembly elections and drew a blank in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Kavitha, then a BRS MLC, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in March 2024 and spent over five months in jail before being released on bail.

Last year, Kavitha resigned from the BRS and as MLC following her suspension over alleged anti-party activities. She now leads Telangana Jagruthi, the cultural organisation she founded during the Telangana movement, and plans to start a political party. Reacting to the court's acquittal, she said justice has prevailed, calling the case politically motivated. K. T. Rama Rao expressed confidence that all cases against BRS leaders will be dismissed, accusing rivals of using media narratives to damage reputations, and reaffirmed that justice will ultimately prevail.

JK Students Seek Andhra CM Intervention Immediately

SRINAGAR

The J&K Students Association has written to Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu seeking urgent intervention over alleged harassment of Kashmiri students at a Kurnool nursing college.

The association, led by national convenor Nasir Khuehami, said around two dozen Kashmiri students pursuing BSc Nursing at the Government College of Medical Nursing, Kurnool, have faced discrimination, verbal abuse, denial of Sehri and Iftar arrangements during Ramzan, and restrictions on wearing hijab. Many of the students study under the Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme through AICTE counselling.

The JKSA stated that the students, despite being regular boarders, were questioned by the administration about their religious practices.

Akhilesh Yadav Backs Kejriwal After Court Discharge

LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday strongly supported former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, calling the Rouse Avenue Court's discharge of Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and 21 others in the Delhi Excise Policy case a vindication of truth and justice.

Yadav said on social media that every honest person could now breathe a sigh of relief, while "BJP supporters must be writhing in deep shame."

He accused the ruling party of betraying Delhi residents and criticised certain religious figures for allegedly levelling false charges to malign political leaders.

"The duplicitous, so-called devout Hindu Shankaracharyas, sadhus, and saints have gone too far in trying to defame governments and individuals," he said, taking a dig at religious authorities. Yadav also linked the BJP's ideological lineage to colonial-era activities, claiming their predecessors colluded with enemies of India and suppressed freedom fighters.

"For the BJP, this news is nothing short of a moral death sentence," he added.

India Maldives Strengthen Strategic Defence And Diplomatic Ties

NEW DELHI

India's High Commissioner to the Maldives, G. Balasubramanian, met Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi to discuss strengthening strategic and defence ties between the two countries.

The meeting focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation amid evolving security challenges in the Indian Ocean region.

According to the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) of the Indian Army, the discussions included reviewing the regional security landscape and exploring ways to improve defence and diplomatic collaboration.

The High Commissioner and the Army Chief exchanged views on current security dynamics and identified avenues to further consolidate India-Maldives partnership in defence, strategic planning, and mutual cooperation.

Earlier, Maldives Minister of State for Tourism and Environment, Muaviyath Mohamed, highlighted the long-standing and close relationship between the two countries, he said India and the Maldives have been working closely on sustainable development, market reforms, and addressing global challenges.

He added that both countries continue to respect each other while collaborating to achieve mutual benefits.

Mohamed also noted India's role as a reliable partner, providing technological expertise, capacity building, and knowledge transfer for environmental and sustainable development initiatives.

He said India's support has helped the Maldives address shared challenges, strengthen institutional cooperation, and advance key development goals.

Haryana CM Denies ₹5,000 Cr Paddy Scam Allegations

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday rejected allegations of a ₹5,000 crore paddy procurement scam, calling them baseless and politically motivated.

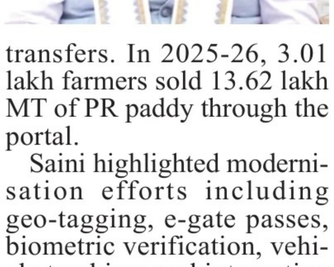
The remarks came during proceedings of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha, where Congress MLAs raised the issue through a Calling Attention motion.

Saini said that if any irregularities had occurred, the government had acted promptly.

He countered that larger scams took place during the Congress regime. Citing procurement figures, he said PR and non-basmati paddy procurement rose from 54.72 lakh MT in 2021-22 to an expected 62.13 lakh MT this year, while basmati paddy procurement increased from 34 lakh MT to 44.84 lakh MT over the same period.

The Chief Minister emphasised that central agencies manage paddy procurement in Haryana, with the state improving monitoring from mandi arrivals to rice mill storage.

Farmers register crops on the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" portal, ensuring transparency and direct payment



transfers. In 2025-26, 3.01 lakh farmers sold 13.62 lakh MT of PR paddy through the portal.

Saini highlighted modernisation efforts including geo-tagging, e-gate passes, biometric verification, vehicle tracking, and integration with IFMS to prevent diversion and ensure timely fertiliser supply.

District-level checks led to 12 FIRs, 75 departmental actions, 28 suspensions, and Rs 6.37 crore recovered.

Criticising previous governments, he added that farmers once waited six months for payments, while the present dispensation has transferred Rs 1.64 lakh crore directly into accounts over 12 years.

Saini reiterated that the current policies remain farmer-centric, transparent, and designed to safeguard agricultural interests.

TN CM Criticises Centre After Kejriwal Excise Case Discharge

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Friday criticised the Union government, saying it should not compromise the integrity of investigative agencies like the CBI and ED for political purposes. His remarks came after the Rouse Avenue Court discharged Arvind Kejriwal, former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and others in the Delhi excise policy case.

In a post on X, Stalin said the Centre "must not mortgage the integrity of investigating agencies for short-term politics" and congratulated Kejriwal and Sisodia for standing firm and letting the truth prevail.

The court noted that the alleged central conspiratorial role could not be substantiated, that the allegations failed judicial scrutiny, and that there was "no criminal intent" on the part of Sisodia. It further stated that the conspiracy theory "cannot survive against one constitutional authority."

Expressing her joy, Sunita Kejriwal said, "Truth always prevails," highlighting the importance of judicial independence.

The CBI had filed the first chargesheet in 2022, followed by multiple supplementary chargesheets.

The agency claimed that Rs 100 crore was paid by a "south lobby" to influence the excise policy, naming 23 accused including Kejriwal, Sisodia, and K. Kavitha. During arguments, the CBI said that criminal conspiracy should be examined as a whole and that the sufficiency of evidence should be tested at trial.

PARKS PLANNED

Gujarat to Develop Theme-Based Namo Gaurav Parks

GANDHINAGAR

The Government of Gujarat, led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, has announced plans to develop theme-based 'Namo Gaurav Parks' across the state's municipal corporations. The move aims to provide urban residents with modern recreational spaces amid rapid city growth and shrinking open areas. The Gujarat Budget 2026-27 has allocated ₹20 crore under the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department for this initiative.

The Namo Gaurav Parks are designed as inclusive,

safe, and vibrant community spaces offering sports, fitness, cultural activities, ecological features, and technology-enabled amenities. These parks will support physical and mental well-being, strengthen social connections, and promote healthy lifestyles. They are also planned to enhance urban ecology, climate resilience, and biodiversity through increased green cover, water conservation, and eco-friendly infrastructure.

Key features of the parks include children's play zones with sports and play equipment, theme-based landscaping with local trees, flower beds, sculptures, butterfly and herbal gardens, and dedicated fitness and sports areas with jogging tracks, open gyms, and spaces for games like badminton and volleyball. Recreational and cultural zones will include open-air amphitheaters, lawns for yoga and meditation, and areas for social gatherings. Water bodies such as small ponds and fountains, along with drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting systems, will promote sustainability.

Public amenities will include drinking water, benches, gazebos, toilets, and facilities for Divyang persons, along with well-laid internal roads. Smart park features will incorporate solar-powered gardens, Wi-Fi, sensor-based lighting, and digital signage.

The initiative reflects the Gujarat government's commitment to inclusive, climate-resilient, and people-oriented urban development. By creating safe, attractive, and eco-friendly spaces, the Namo Gaurav Parks are expected to enhance the quality of life, encourage community engagement, and make cities greener and healthier.

QUICK READ

UN Special Rapporteur calls for calm amid rising Afghanistan-Pakistan tensions

Kabul

Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, on Friday called for calm and respect for human rights and humanitarian law, especially the protection of people, amid escalating tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan which has claimed several lives, including of Afghan civilians. Bennett stressed immediate de-escalation as Pakistan launched Operation 'Ghazab lil-Haq' against Afghanistan, targetting several military installations in Kabul, Paktia, and Kandahar .

Minority rights group flags brutal attack on Christian worker

Islamabad

A leading minority rights group on Friday highlighted another brutal attack on a Christian minority worker in Pakistan's Punjab province, stating that religious communities frequently face violence and systematic exploitation across the country. Citing eyewitnesses, the Voice of Pakistan Minority (VOPM) mentioned that Yousaf Masih was attacked in Gujranwala city of Punjab by four fruit vendors who allegedly struck him with a two kilogramme iron weight, typically used to balance scales in markets. According to the rights body, the blow left him bleeding and fighting for his life,

Pakistan considers itself in 'open war' with Afghanistan: Minister Asif

Islamabad

Pakistan on Friday said it considers itself in an "open war" with Afghanistan, as its forces killed more than 130 Taliban fighters in airstrikes in Kabul, Kandahar and Paktia in response to what Islamabad described as the cross-border attack by the Afghan Taliban.

The 2,611-km-long border between Pakistan and Afghanistan is known as the Durand Line, which Kabul has not formally recognised.

"Our patience has run out. Now there is an open war between us...Now it will be 'Dama Dam Mast Qalandar'. Pakistan's army did not come from across the seas.

EU to Provisionally Apply Mercosur Trade Deal

The European Union will provisionally enforce its landmark trade agreement

STRASBOURGE

The European Union (EU) has announced that it will provisionally apply its long-debated free trade agreement with the South American bloc Mercosur, aiming to secure a strategic first-mover advantage in global markets. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Friday that the move is intended to ensure the EU does not fall behind other major economies in accessing emerging opportunities in Latin America.

The European Commission recently concluded what it described as its largest-ever trade pact in terms of tariff reductions, finalizing negotiations with Mercosur member countries — Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay — after 25 years of complex and often contentious discussions. The agreement is designed to significantly lower tariffs on a wide range of goods, facilitating smoother trade flows between the two regions.

Supporters of the deal, including Germany and Spain, argue that the agreement is crucial for European businesses grappling with the impact of U.S. tariffs and increasing global competition. They contend that strengthening trade ties with Mercosur will help European industries recover lost business opportunities and diversify supply chains, particularly in securing access to critical minerals needed for green technologies and digital infrastructure. Backers also see the pact as a strategic step to reduce overdependence on China for key raw materials and industrial inputs.

However, the agreement has faced strong resistance within the EU, most notably from France, the bloc's largest agricultural producer. French officials and other opponents argue that the deal could lead to a sharp increase in agricultural imports from South America, potentially undercutting European farmers who operate under stricter environmental and production standards.

Concerns have also been raised about environmental safeguards and the impact on local farming communities.

Despite the divisions, the European Commission's decision to provisionally apply the agreement underscores its determination to advance the bloc's trade agenda.

The coming months are expected to see intensified political debate across member states as the EU balances economic strategy with domestic sensitivities.

Barcelona Deploys Robots to Support Elderly Care

A Barcelona pilot project introduces robots to assist seniors facing early cognitive decline.

BARCELONA

In a quiet apartment in Barcelona, 67-year-old Irene Veglison has rediscovered the joy of dancing after more than two decades thanks to an unusual new companion. Three months ago, a 1.35-metre-tall robot moved into her home as part of a government-backed initiative aimed at supporting people in the early stages of cognitive decline.

Veglison received the device in November under a municipal pilot programme designed to enhance tele-assistance services for the elderly. The initiative is being overseen by Barcelona's city council as part of broader efforts to modernize care systems amid growing demographic pressures.

We're developing this pilot project to improve tele-assistance, said Marta Villanueva Cendán, a councillor with Barcelona's municipal council. She explained that the long-term goal is to equip robots with the ability to detect risks and automatically alert healthcare professionals. In the future, we want the robots to detect risk and alert professionals, like if the person has fallen and cannot respond, she added.

Like many European nations, Spain faces the twin challenges of rising life expectancy and declining birth rates, trends that are placing increasing strain on the country's care sector. Authorities hope that assistive robotics can help fill workforce gaps and enable seniors to live independently for longer.

So far, Barcelona has deployed 600 such robots to private homes and care centres across the city. The programme is funded by a 3.8 million euro ($4.47 million) grant from the European Union's COVID-19 recovery funds, reflecting the bloc's push to support digital innovation in social services.

The devices are manufactured by Misty Robotics, a U.S.-based firm, and distributed in Europe by Catalan technology company Grup Saltó. Equipped with interactive features, the robots can engage users in conversation, provide reminders, and encourage physical activity — including dancing sessions.

Living with her two cats, Veglison has affectionately named her robot Sandi. For her, the device is more than just a machine; it has become a source of companionship, stimulation and renewed movement, offering a glimpse into how technology may reshape elderly care in the years ahead.

Cuba Blames U.S. After Deadly Sea Clash

CUBA

Cuba on Thursday sharply criticized the United States for allegedly allowing anti-Cuban groups to operate with impunity, following a deadly maritime confrontation involving a Florida-registered speedboat off the island's coast.

The government in Havana said heavily armed Cuban nationals attempted to infiltrate the country by sea on Wednesday, prompting an exchange of gunfire with Cuban security forces. According to official statements, four Cuban nationals were killed during the confrontation, while six others were wounded and taken into custody. The injured individuals were receiving treatment at a provincial Cuban hospital.

A U.S. official in Washington confirmed that at least two of those aboard the vessel were U.S. citizens one among the deceased and another among the injured currently receiving medical care in Cuba. The official added that others on the boat may have been legal U.S. residents.

Cuban authorities accused Washington of failing to curb anti-Castro groups that they claim organize hostile actions against the island from U.S. soil. However, Havana also acknowledged that it had been in contact with U.S. officials since the start of the incident. Cuban officials said the United States had shown willingness to cooperate in clarifying the circumstances surrounding the confrontation.

Kwok Yin-sang sentenced under national security law over daughter's insurance funds.

Hong Kong Court Jails Activist's Father

HONG KONG

A Hong Kong court on Thursday sentenced Kwok Yin-sang, the 69-year-old father of a wanted pro-democracy activist, to eight months in prison under the city's national security legislation. The ruling marks the first conviction for attempting to handle the financial assets of an individual designated as an absconder under the law.

Kwok was found guilty on February 11 of attempting to deal with, directly or indirectly, any funds or other financial assets or economic resources belonging to his daughter, Anna Kwok, who is currently overseas. Prosecutors argued that he tried to terminate her insurance policy and withdraw the funds, actions deemed unlawful under Hong Kong's homegrown national security law, also referred to as Article 23.

He pleaded not guilty and did not testify during the trial. When the sentence was delivered, Kwok appeared calm in court and waved goodbye before being taken back into custody.

Anna Kwok is a prominent activist who helps lead the Washington-based Hong Kong Democracy Council. She is among 34 overseas activists wanted by Hong Kong's national security police.

Authorities accuse her of colluding with foreign forces a charge frequently invoked under the sweeping security framework imposed in recent years. Police have placed a bounty of HK$1 million (approximately $128,000) on her arrest. The case has drawn significant attention as it represents the first time a family member of a wanted activist has been convicted under provisions targeting financial dealings with designated absconders. Following the sentencing, Anna Kwok sharply criticized the court's decision. To sentence my father under the pretext that his actions lowered the 'likelihood' of my return to stand trial is not justice; it is a judicial farce, she said in a statement. The ruling comes amid broader concerns from rights groups about the expanding reach of national security enforcement in Hong Kong. Critics argue that the legislation has increasingly been used to pursue individuals abroad and penalize those connected to them, while authorities maintain that the measures are necessary to safeguard national stability and security.

Labour Loses Manchester Stronghold to Greens

LONDON

Prime Minister Keir Starmer faced mounting political pressure on Friday after his Labour Party suffered a shock defeat to the Green Party of England and Wales in a Manchester constituency it had held for nearly a century.

The loss of the parliamentary seat of Gorton and Denton long considered one of Labour's safest strongholds marks a significant setback in the biggest electoral test in almost a year. The Green Party's Hannah Spencer secured victory in the contest, while Nigel Farage's Reform UK finished second. Labour was pushed into third place, a result widely described as a political embarrassment for the governing party.

The outcome underscores what analysts say is an accelerating breakdown of Britain's traditional two-party system, historically dominated by Labour and the Conservatives.

The defeat adds to internal party tensions and intensifies calls from critics who have urged Starmer to step down following weeks of political turmoil.

Labour Party chair Anna Turley acknowledged the setback, describing the result as clearly disappointing.

Meanwhile, leading pollster John Curtice characterized the outcome as a seismic moment in British politics.

He said the result suggests the future of British politics looks more uncertain than at any stage since the end of World War Two.

Hillary Clinton Denies Ties to Jeffrey Epstein

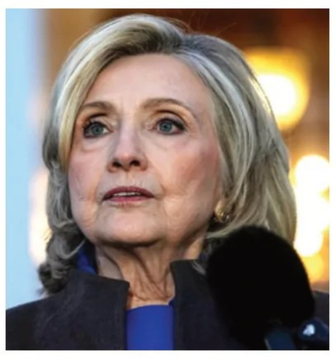
NEW YORK

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told a congressional committee on Thursday that she does not recall ever meeting the late financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and has no information regarding his criminal activities.

Clinton released a statement as she delivered a closed-door deposition before the United States House Committee on Oversight and Accountability in Chappaqua, New York. I do not recall ever encountering Mr. Epstein. I never flew on his plane or visited his island, homes or offices, she said.

Following her seven-hour appearance, Clinton spoke briefly to reporters, stating that she was repeatedly asked similar questions throughout the day. She added that she offered suggestions on how the investigation might be conducted but did not elaborate on those ideas.

Clinton also described parts of the questioning as unusual. She said that late in the proceedings she was asked about UFOs and about Pizzagate, a widely debunked conspiracy theory that circulated during the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign. The false claims alleged that a Washington, D.C., pizzeria was a front for a child sex trafficking ring supposedly linked to her and other Democrats.



The conspiracy theory, which gained traction online in 2016, was repeatedly discredited by law enforcement and media investigations. Authorities confirmed that no such criminal operation existed. Despite this, the allegations spread widely on social media platforms at the time.

Epstein, who was arrested in 2019 on federal sex trafficking charges, died in a New York jail cell later that year.

His case has continued to generate political controversy and speculation, with various public figures questioned about any potential connections to him.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	1	6		8	9		7	4
7			6			3		
	4			3			2	
6	7		9	2		4	5	
	9			7			3	
8		4	5		6	2		7
	2			4			6	
4		7	3		5		8	
9		8		6	2	7		3

7	6	8	2	1	4	9	3	5
3	1	5	6	7	9	4	2	8
2	9	4	8	3	5	1	6	7
4	5	7	9	2	3	6	8	1
6	3	9	7	8	1	5	4	2
1	8	2	5	4	6	7	9	3
8	2	6	1	9	7	3	5	4
9	7	3	4	5	2	8	1	6
5	4	1	3	6	8	2	7	9

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

RUSSIA URGES RESTRAINT

Russia Urges Afghanistan, Pakistan to End Clashes

MOSCOW

Russia on Friday urged Afghanistan and Pakistan to immediately stop cross-border attacks and resolve their escalating tensions through diplomatic channels.

The appeal comes amid rising concerns over military clashes between the two neighbouring countries, which have strained regional stability.

Moscow, which is the only country to officially recognise the Taliban-led government of Afghanistan, maintains working relations with both Kabul and Pakistan. The Kremlin said it is closely monitoring the situation as reports of intensified skirmishes along the border continue to emerge.

Of course, the direct military clashes that have taken place do not bode well. Therefore we hope that they will cease as soon as possible...

Like everyone else, we are closely monitoring this situation, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow. He emphasized the importance of de-escalation and dialogue to prevent further instability in the region.

Peskov also confirmed that preparations are underway for a visit to Russia by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, though he did not provide a specific date. According to Russia's state news agency RIA Novosti, the visit is expected to take place next week, signaling continued diplomatic engagement between Moscow and Islamabad.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova expressed concern over what she described as a sharp military escalation between the two neighbours. Writing on Telegram, Zakharova urged restraint and a return to political dialogue.

FIFA Chief Backs Mexico despite Security Concerns

Infantino reiterates faith in hosts after cartel violence erupts nationwide

MEXICO CITY

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has expressed "full confidence" in Mexico's ability to host World Cup matches this year, despite a recent surge in cartel-related violence that has raised security concerns.

Infantino said he spoke with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and reaffirmed FIFA's trust in the country's preparations. "I reiterated our full confidence in the host country and look forward to it staging all scheduled matches," he said, describing the 2026 edition as set to be the "most inclusive and greatest" World Cup yet.

The assurance comes days after Mexican security forces killed Nemesio Oseguera Cervantes, widely known as "El Mencho," leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. His death triggered violent reprisals across several states, with reports of burned vehicles, road blockades and at least 70 fatalities.

Mexico is scheduled to host 13 World Cup matches, including four in Guadalajara, located in Jalisco state — considered a stronghold of the cartel. The developments have prompted questions about safety for teams and fans.

Sheinbaum, in a post on X, said Mexico continues to work "as usual" to ensure a successful tournament and reiterated there was "no risk" to visitors. However, security concerns have already impacted sporting events, with a World Cup diving competition in a Guadalajara suburb canceled this week.

International federations are monitoring the situation closely. The Portuguese Football Federation said it is tracking developments ahead of a planned friendly in Mexico City, while Jamaica's football chief confirmed similar vigilance before upcoming playoff matches in Guadalajara.

Despite the tensions, Infantino maintained earlier this week that he expects the tournament to proceed smoothly, underscoring FIFA's continued commitment to Mexico as a key World Cup host.

Scotland Fans Cleared to Wear Kilts at WC 2026

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

FIFA clears traditional sporrans after talks with Scottish FA.

Scotland supporters have received approval to wear traditional sporrans with their kilts at World Cup matches this summer after discussions between the Scottish Football Association and FIFA.

The agreement ensures that the sporran — a fur or leather pouch worn at the front of a kilt — will be permitted inside stadiums in the United States, which is co-hosting the 2026 tournament alongside Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19.

Security regulations for the tournament restrict fans to clear, see-through bags or small clutches roughly half the size of a typical sporran. That had sparked concern among members of Scotland's traveling support, known as the "Tartan Army," who feared being forced to part with a key element of their traditional attire.

Kilts, which resemble knee-length skirts, do not have pockets, making the sporran both decorative and practical for carrying essentials such as phones, wallets and tickets.

A spokesperson for the Scottish FA confirmed that FIFA has agreed sporrans can be brought into stadiums following standard search and inspection procedures. Officials will also work with matchday staff in host cities to ensure smooth entry for Scotland fans attending games in Foxborough, Massachusetts, and Miami Gardens, Florida.

Scotland have been drawn in Group C alongside Brazil, Morocco and Haiti. Two of their group matches will take place in Foxborough, with the third scheduled in Miami Gardens.

The decision paves the way for Scotland fans to showcase their distinctive culture on football's biggest stage as the national team prepares for its first World Cup appearance since 1998. Thousands are expected to travel, bringing a splash of tartan — and now approved sporrans — to the global spectacle.

8 Baseball Classic Delegation Members Denied US Visas: Cuba

HAVANA

Cuba has reported that eight members of its delegation to the 2026 World Baseball Classic were denied visas to enter the United States, the Cuban Baseball and Softball Federation announced, raising concerns ahead of next month's tournament.

The World Baseball Classic, scheduled from March 5–17, will see Cuba compete in Pool A in San Juan, Puerto Rico against teams including Puerto Rico national baseball team, Colombia national baseball team, Panama national baseball team and Canada national baseball team.

According to the federation, the visas were denied to key officials, including its president Juan Reinaldo Pérez Pardo, general secretary Carlos del Pino Muñoz and esteemed pitching coach Pedro Luis Lazo Iglesias. These individuals were part of the official Cuban delegation but are not among the players.

An unnamed U.S. official told media that none of those denied visas were actual athletes, and that visa privacy laws prevent detailed comment on individual cases. The U.S. State Department has declined to publicly address the matter.

In statements released by the Cuban federation, officials criticised the decision, saying the response from U.S. authorities "ignores the reasons on which they are based, the most basic principles of sport, and the commitments assumed by the host countries of such events." They added that the denial came more than a month after visa requests were submitted.

Despite the setback for officials, sources familiar with the situation said all Cuban players and most coaches have been granted visas, allowing the team to travel for competition.

Australian Grand Prix Opens F1's New Hybrid Era

MELBOURNE

Formula 1 enters a bold new regulatory era next week at the Australian Grand Prix, with sweeping hybrid changes forcing drivers to rethink their approach as the sport's "big four" teams battle for the opening victory of 2026.

The overhaul mandates a 50-50 split between internal combustion power and electrical hybrid systems, creating cars that demand compromise, energy management and tactical precision. Preseason testing revealed unusual traits — chaotic practice starts, drivers lifting off on straights to recharge batteries and aggressive downshifts to maximize regeneration.

Four-time world champion Max Verstappen was blunt in his assessment, calling the new machines "no fun," while seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton questioned whether the increasingly complex rules might confuse fans.

Despite concerns, the competitive order appears tight. Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team, Scuderia Ferrari, Red Bull Racing and McLaren F1 Team — dubbed the "big four" — showed similar pace in Bahrain testing. Ferrari impressed with innovative aerodynamic tweaks and notably sharp practice starts, while rivals praised Red Bull's mastery of the new electrical systems.

Mercedes' engine performance has drawn particular attention after strong testing runs, potentially elevating George Russell into title contention. McLaren's Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri also looked consistently competitive.

The new hybrid configuration means overtaking could prove difficult, especially on tracks like Melbourne that lack heavy braking zones for energy recovery. Drivers may find themselves "energy-starved," limiting the effectiveness of the new overtake mode if batteries cannot recharge quickly enough.

Off the track, 2026 brings fresh storylines.

Cadillac joins as the 11th team, Sauber transitions to Audi ownership, and Madrid's new "Madring" street circuit replaces Barcelona on the Spanish calendar.

CRYSTAL PALACE ADVANCE COMFORTABLY; FIORENTINA SCRAPE THROUGH AFTER DRAMATIC SCARE

Crystal Palace F.C. Advance as ACF Fiorentina Survive Conference League Scare

LONDON

Crystal Palace booked their place in the UEFA Conference League last 16 with a composed 2-0 win over Zrinjski Mostar, while Fiorentina survived a major scare to edge past Jagiellonia Bialystok in a dramatic play-off round.

Palace, held 1-1 in Bosnia in the first leg, ensured there would be no slip-up at Selhurst Park. Under-pressure manager Oliver Glasner saw his side rise to the occasion in their first European knockout tie in a major competition.

Maxence Lacroix opened the scoring in the 36th minute, heading home from Adam Wharton's free-kick to calm nerves among the home crowd. Evann Guessand sealed the tie in stoppage time, drilling Brennan Johnson's pass into the far corner to secure a 3-1 aggregate victory.

The result provided respite for Glasner, who has faced criticism after a poor Premier League run and an FA Cup exit to lower-league opposition. Palace will now meet either Mainz or AEK Larnaca in the last 16.

In Florence, Fiorentina were pushed to the brink despite carrying a 3-0 first-leg advantage. Bartosz Mazurek's hat-trick for Jagiellonia wiped out the deficit and forced extra time at the Artemio Franchi.

The Italian side regained control through Nicolo Fagioli's strike and an own goal from Taras Romanchuk. Although Jesus Imaz scored in the 118th minute to keep Jagiellonia alive, Fiorentina progressed 5-4 on aggregate after a chaotic 4-2 defeat on the night.

Currently struggling in Serie A, Fiorentina have nonetheless built a strong recent record in this competition, reaching two finals and a semi-final in the past three seasons.

They remain hopeful of another deep European run.

Elsewhere, AZ Alkmaar overturned a first-leg deficit to advance, while Lech Poznan, Sigma Olomouc, Celje, Rijeka and Samsunspor also secured last-16 spots after decisive second-leg victories across the continent.

Arsenal F.C. Seek Derby Double as Manchester City F.C. Close In

LONDON

Arsenal will aim to secure back-to-back London derby victories when they host Chelsea F.C. on Sunday, knowing any slip-up could allow Manchester City to tighten the Premier League title race.

The last time Arsenal defeated Chelsea three times in a single season was during their 2003-04 title-winning campaign. While history offers encouragement, the current stakes are equally high. Mikel Arteta's side sit top of the table but have shown vulnerability in recent weeks, dropping points in draws against Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers before bouncing back with an emphatic 4-1 victory over Tottenham Hotspur in the North London derby.

That win restored momentum, yet City remain five points behind with a game in hand. Pep Guardiola's side travel to Leeds United this weekend on a five-match winning run in all competitions, determined to keep pressure on the leaders.

Chelsea, currently fifth, have not beaten Arsenal since 2021 and were eliminated by them in a recent League Cup semi-final tie. However, they did hold Arsenal to a league draw earlier this season despite playing most of the match with 10 men. Avoiding a third defeat to their London rivals this term will be a key motivation for Chelsea manager Liam Rosenior. Arsenal's home form against fellow top-six sides has been inconsistent, with a draw against Liverpool and a loss to Manchester United in recent weeks. Another stumble could reopen the title race with 10 matches remaining.

Elsewhere, Leeds — under Daniel Farke — have proved resilient against elite opposition, earning draws against Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea and Aston Villa in 2026.

Marc Marquez Adapts Riding Style Ahead of MotoGP Opener

BURIRAM, THAILAND

Defending MotoGP world champion Marc Marquez says a lingering shoulder injury has forced him to modify his riding style as he prepares to launch his title defence at the season-opening Thai Grand Prix this weekend.

The 33-year-old Spaniard, racing for the Ducati Lenovo Team, is chasing a record-equalling eighth world title after a dominant 2025 campaign. Marquez sealed last season's championship with five races to spare, winning 25 races including sprints, but missed the final four events due to a shoulder injury.

Speaking ahead of the race in Buriram, Marquez admitted the injury has not fully healed and continues to affect his physical condition.

"It's not an easy one," he said, explaining that he has had to step back from last year's more aggressive aerodynamic setup. According to Marquez, the 2025 configuration was physically demanding and required peak strength, something he is still working to regain.

"I cannot ride the bike in the same way as last year at the moment," he said. "I'm trying to adapt my riding style to what I have now in my physical condition."

The Spaniard described the revised setup as "working well but in a different way," underlining his willingness to adjust in pursuit of results. Known for his resilience, Marquez said adapting has always been one of his strengths and that he will continue refining his approach until he feels fully ready.

Despite the setback, his ambitions remain unchanged.

"If you are wearing a red Ducati T-shirt, the target is to fight for the championship," he said.

Marquez's closest rival last season was his brother, Alex Marquez, who has shown promising pace in pre-season testing with Gresini. Meanwhile, Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi set a new track record in Buriram during testing, signalling a competitive field.

As the new season begins, all eyes will be on whether Marquez's adaptability can once again carry him to the summit of motorcycle racing.

Skechers Backs India's Pickleball Rise with Official AIPA Jersey

MUMBAI

Skechers has strengthened its foothold in India's fast-growing pickleball ecosystem by launching its official performance jersey in partnership with the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA).

The collaboration marks a significant step in positioning pickleball as a serious competitive sport rather than merely a recreational trend. With this association, Skechers becomes the official performance jersey partner of AIPA, reinforcing its commitment to India's expanding community of professional and aspiring athletes.

At the centre of the launch is the newly introduced Skechers Pickleball Jersey, engineered specifically for high-intensity match play. Made from lightweight and breathable performance fabric, the jersey is designed to offer enhanced mobility, effective moisture management and sustained comfort during long matches. The technical design reflects the brand's focus on innovation while meeting the agility-driven demands of competitive pickleball.

The campaign features prominent athletes including Sonu Kumar Vishwakarma and Vrushali Thakare, along with accomplished players Anuja Maheshwari and Ritam Chawla. Their association underscores the brand's athlete-first philosophy and lends credibility to its expanding performance portfolio in the sport.

Rahul Vira, CEO of Skechers South Asia Pvt. Ltd., said pickleball in India is at a pivotal growth stage. He noted that the partnership with AIPA and the launch of a dedicated performance jersey demonstrate the company's long-term vision to support competitive standards and nurture the sport's development nationwide.

Beyond apparel, Skechers is also expanding its pickleball footwear range in India. The collection focuses on superior grip, responsive cushioning and on-court stability, offering players a comprehensive performance solution.

As pickleball gains traction across urban centres and competitive circuits, Skechers' latest initiative signals a strategic move to build an authentic, performance-led presence in one of India's fastest-growing sporting segments, while empowering athletes with specialized gear designed for serious play.

QUICK READ

India to protect its interests in trade deal with US: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday that India would go in for a rebalancing of the proposed trade agreement with the United States, if required, to protect its interests, in view of the changed situation following the US Supreme Court annulling the tariff hikes announced earlier by the Donald Trump administration. Given the evolving situation on US tariffs, we will wait and watch and ensure India's best interests are protected, Goyal said at a media event here. It's an evolving situation. The Trump administration has made some comments; they have other tools that they can use.

AI skills overtake traditional engineering and IT capabilities in India

New Delhi

AI skills have overtaken traditional engineering and IT capabilities for the first time to become the most difficult skills for employers to find, a report showed on Friday. Over eight out of 10 employers or 82 per cent of employers cited in India reported difficulty finding skilled talent in 2026, according to the report from ManpowerGroup. AI literacy and AI model development emerge among the hardest skills to find, the report said, adding that talent pressure has increased compared to last year and remains significantly above the global average of 72 per cent.

Global smartphone shipments to see decline in 2026 over memory supply crunch

New Delhi

Facing a severe, supply driven memory crunch, global smartphone shipments ended 2025 with low single digit growth (year-on-year), supported by improving macroeconomic conditions and healthy demand during the holiday season, a report showed on Friday. Global smartphone shipments grew 3.8 per cent in Q4 2025, extending the market's recovery to a fourth consecutive quarter and marking the strongest holiday quarter since 2021, with most regions posting YoY growth except China and Eastern Europe. However, the market is set for a major reversal in 2026, according to Counterpoint Research, with shipments forecasted to decline 12.4 per cent YoY, marking the sharpest annual contraction ever.

Gujarat to Host SemiConnect Conference 2026

State advances Rs 1.24 lakh crore semiconductor projects in Gandhinagar

GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat will host the SemiConnect Conference-2026 on March 1 and 2 in Gandhinagar, as it accelerates semiconductor projects worth approximately Rs 1.24 lakh crore and strengthens its position in India's chip manufacturing ambitions.

Addressing a press conference in Gandhinagar, State Science and Technology Minister Arjun Modhwadia said the conference aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's broader vision of transforming India into a global semiconductor hub.

He noted that disruptions in global supply chains during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in semiconductor production, had severely impacted industries worldwide and highlighted the strategic necessity of domestic chip manufacturing.

Considering that challenge as an opportunity, the Prime Minister decided to make the country a semiconductor hub. As a result, today the nation is leading in semiconductor and fifth-generation smart manufacturing, Modhwadia said.

He also referred to the India AI Impact Summit-2026 held in New Delhi last week under the Prime Minister's leadership, where representatives from 88 countries issued a joint declaration on the ethical use of artificial intelligence.

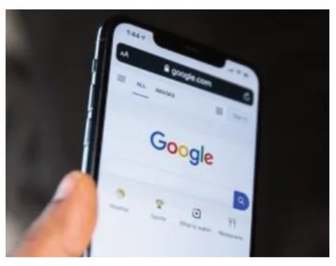
The two-day SemiConnect Conference will be attended

by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister for Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw and Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi.

Modhwadia said the event is being organised as Gujarat's flagship semiconductor platform, bringing together global and domestic stakeholders across the electronics value chain. He added that the initiative would help establish the state as a centre for memory packaging and advanced semiconductor manufacturing, thereby strengthening India's electronics production capacity and strategic technology base.

The conference aims to promote collaboration between high-technology chip manufacturers, supply chain partners and domestic industries to support long-term ecosystem development.

According to the minister, the third edition builds on the momentum of the 2024 and 2025 events, which brought together fabs, foundries, equipment manufacturers, material suppliers and design ecosystem partners.



Seoul's opening of high-precision map data to Google

SEOUL

South Korea's decision to allow global tech giant Google to transfer government-supplied domestic high-precision map data overseas seems to be tied to Seoul's efforts to address US concerns over non-tariff barriers, industry observers said on Friday. Earlier in the day, the government approved Google's request to transfer 1:5,000-scale high-precision map data to its overseas facilities, contingent on supplementary measures to address security concerns.

Seoul had rejected similar requests by Google in 2007 and 2016, citing national security concerns that sensitive facilities, such as military bases, could be exposed.

The question on whether Seoul would change such a stance had drawn renewed attention amid trade consultations between Seoul and the U.S. administration under President Donald Trump that has taken a hard-line stance on tariff issues.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has repeatedly cited South Korea's restrictions on the overseas transfer of location-based data as a key non-tariff barrier affecting American digital services firms.

Earlier this month, Foreign Minister Cho Hyun told lawmakers that USTR Jamieson Greer warned Washington could raise reciprocal tariffs on South Korea back to 25 percent from the current 15 percent if no progress is made in addressing non-tariff barriers.

The government had long delayed approving Google's request on national security grounds, but trade and tariff pressure from the U.S. has intensified in recent years, Wi Jong-hyun, a professor at the college of virtual convergence at Chung-Ang University, said.

TRAI Proposes Half-Star Digital Connectivity Ratings

Consultation paper suggests refined scale for in-building connectivity.

MUMBAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday released a consultation paper titled Review of the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations 2024, proposing refinements to the existing rating framework by introducing additional half-star levels.

With a significant proportion of data consumption now occurring indoors—particularly after the widespread rollout of 4G and 5G technologies—TRAI noted that in-building digital connectivity has become a critical factor in determining user experience and Quality of Service (QoS).

The regulator said the updated framework aims to promote collaboration among property managers, Digital Connectivity Rating Agencies (DCRAs), service providers and other stakeholders, while ensuring transparency, accountability and long-term sustainability.

To better differentiate property performance, TRAI has proposed expanding the current five-star rating scale to nine levels by adding half-star increments. The move is intended to provide more granular assessment and clearer information for consumers seeking digitally ready residential or commercial spaces.

According to the official statement, the proposed refinements are designed to address practical challenges faced by property managers and DCRAs during implementation. At the same time, TRAI clarified that the core objectives, principles and assessment methodology of the framework will remain unchanged.

The regulator had originally notified the Rating of Properties for Digital Connectivity Regulations, 2024 on October 25, 2024, establishing a structured system for evaluating properties based on their digital connectivity readiness.

A detailed Rating Manual to operationalise the regulations was subsequently issued in 2025. In addition to the revised rating scale, the consultation paper also proposes a design-stage assessment and certification mechanism for under-construction properties.

This would enable early evaluation of digital connectivity preparedness while ensuring that final ratings are granted only after project completion.

TRAI emphasized that the final Digital Connectivity Rating will continue to be awarded only after construction is complete and the mandatory Due Diligence Stage–II is conducted, thereby safeguarding the integrity and credibility of the assessment process.

The consultation process invites feedback from stakeholders before.

Project Utthan transforms BMC schools into vibrant hubs of culture and learning.

Adani Foundation Celebrates Marathi Language Day

MUMBAI

To mark 'Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din' and the birth anniversary of renowned poet Kusumagraj, the Adani Foundation and Adani Electricity transformed civic-run schools in Mumbai into vibrant centres celebrating Maharashtrian culture and language.

Organised under the CSR initiative 'Project Utthan', the celebration blended academic enrichment with traditional cultural activities across schools run by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Students participated in engaging word games designed to enhance their Marathi vocabulary, while also enjoying spirited performances of Powada, Abhang and the tribal Tarpa dance all integral elements of Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage.

The event concluded with a collective recitation of the Pasaydaan, reinforcing both linguistic pride and cultural awareness among students. Organisers said the initiative aligns with the project's broader goal of helping children excel academically while remaining deeply connected to their local roots and mother tongue.

'Project Utthan', the Adani Foundation's flagship education programme aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, focuses on strengthening foundational literacy, numeracy and essential life skills in government primary schools. The programme aims to create supportive classroom environments where children feel confident, motivated and encouraged to learn during their formative years.

In Mumbai, the Adani Foundation and Adani Electricity have collaborated closely with the BMC Education Department to extend Project Utthan to all BMC primary schools. The initiative places special emphasis on Priya Vidyarthis progressive learners identified for additional academic support providing them with targeted guidance and joyful learning experiences to foster steady growth. Officials said such culturally rooted educational initiatives not only strengthen language skills but also nurture pride in regional identity. By integrating tradition with modern pedagogy, the programme seeks to build a strong educational foundation while celebrating Maharashtra's literary and artistic legacy.

SEBI warns investors about fake STT Notices, 'account handling' services

MUMBAI

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has flagged a surge in frauds involving fake securities transaction tax (STT) notices and account handling services that promise risk free profits. The regulator said fraudsters have circulated fake notices demanding payment of outstanding securities transaction tax (STT) liabilities, often using forged SEBI letterhead, logo and seal and falsely claiming powers conferred by the SEBI Act, 1992.

SEBI also warned about PMS service providers or expert fund managers who claim to help investors to make risk free profits in their demat or trading account, in another statement.

They exploit investors by showcasing trades done by them for other investors in which they claim to have generated substantial profits, the regulator added.

Further, SEBI said STT is automatically collected by brokers at the time of each trade under the Finance Act, 2004 and it does not issue demand notices on STTs.

SEBI urged investors to verify any communication claiming to be from the regulator. Official SEBI emails come only from addresses ending in @sebi.gov.in, and enforcement actions are published on SEBI's website, adding that online payments related to orders.

Will strengthen Odisha's clean energy ambitions: CM Majhi

BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal for approving the construction of a ₹797.17 crore dedicated jetty at Paradip Port to handle green hydrogen, ammonia and other liquid cargo. Taking to his X handle, CM Majhi said the project will position Odisha as a future-ready maritime economy and strengthen its role in the emerging green energy sector.

With a capacity of 4 MTPA, this project will connect Odisha's emerging green hydrogen production clusters to global markets, strengthen clean energy export logistics and advance India's National Green Hydrogen Mission. The initiative will further accelerate green investments, generate employment and reinforce Odisha's role in building a sustainable and future-ready maritime economy, said Majhi.

It is pertinent here to mention that the project, which got the approval on Thursday, will be implemented by Paradip Port Authority on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis. The proposed facility will have a handling capacity of 4.0 million tonnes per annum and is designed to strengthen Paradip Port's role as a hub for green energy cargo. The infrastructure will include a dedicated jetty, storage systems, pipelines, handling equipment and associated facilities.

The jetty will have a centre-to-centre distance of 279 metres between extreme end dolphins and a dredged depth of 14.3 metres in front of the berth to enable safe handling of liquid cargo vessels.

Paradip Port Authority will provide capital support equivalent to 20 per cent of the project cost, amounting to ₹159.43 crore, during the construction phase. The project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

GLOBAL TRADE EXPANSION

India Deepens Global Trade Integration in 2026

NEW DELHI

India's trade partnerships in 2026 reflect a decisive shift toward deeper global economic integration, backed by a growing network of modern and outcome-oriented agreements, an official statement said on Friday.

A landmark agreement with the European Union, along with strengthened ties with other key partners, is expanding market access for Indian exporters, boosting outbound shipments, attracting foreign investment and generating

employment across multiple sectors.

The statement noted that these international initiatives are being complemented by domestic policy, financial and regulatory measures aimed at enhancing exporter competitiveness. As a result, India's trade ecosystem is becoming more resilient and globally integrated.

Several major economies are currently engaged in active negotiations with India to deepen trade and investment ties through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and comprehensive economic partnerships.

In February, India reached a framework understanding with the United States for an interim agreement designed to promote reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. The framework underscores both countries' commitment to advancing negotiations under the broader US-India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), which is expected to include expanded market access commitments and measures to build more resilient supply chains.

Meanwhile, India and Israel signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement in November.

The first round of negotiations was concluded this month, establishing a structured framework for discussions across identified sectors aimed at enhancing trade and economic cooperation between the two nations.

Gavaskar Hails Abhishek Sharma for Silencing Critics with Composed Knock

NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar admitted he was surprised to see Abhishek Sharma play a defensive stroke but praised the young opener for silencing his critics with a crucial half-century against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup.

Returning after a stomach bug, Abhishek had endured a torrid run, registering three consecutive ducks and looking far from his explosive best. However, the left-hander answered his doubters in style on Thursday, smashing a 30-ball 55 to power India to a commanding 72-run victory over Zimbabwe national cricket team.

"We know how good Abhishek Sharma is as a batter. He silenced his doubters with this knock," Gavaskar said, highlighting the method behind the innings. "He took extra time at the start, respected the off-spinner and didn't take unnecessary risks."

Gavaskar noted that Abhishek's rare defensive stroke caught his eye. "In this game, he actually defended the ball. We don't usually see that from him," he remarked, calling it a sign of growth and maturity.

The batting legend described the phase as a learning curve for the youngster, stressing that every cricketer faces lean patches. According to him, how a player adapts defines long-term success, and Abhishek appears to have evolved from the experience.

Gavaskar also reflected on India's tactical adjustments after a disappointing outing against South Africa national cricket team. He said the team looked "broken" in that match but quickly corrected course by restoring Sanju Samson to the top to ensure a right-left combination.Looking ahead to the virtual knockout against West Indies cricket team in Kolkata, Gavaskar cautioned that India must be wary of their opponents' explosive batting. "They punish mistakes and start attacking from ball one," he warned, adding that India will need a clear plan to counter their firepower.

ARSHDEEP SINGH
Learning from Bumrah, Siraj and Morkel

CHENNAI

India pacer Arshdeep Singh said he is constantly working on improving his skills and match awareness alongside senior bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, as well as bowling coach Morne Morkel, during the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Arshdeep delivered a disciplined spell of 3/24 to help India register a commanding 72-run win over the Zimbabwe national cricket team in their Super Eights clash. Despite being the youngest member of the bowling attack, he has embraced responsibility in crucial phases, including the powerplay.

"I am the youngest of the bowling group. When the team shows trust and gives you two overs in the powerplay, there's always a chance to pick wickets because batters are looking to score," he said after the match.

The left-arm seamer stressed the importance of staying proactive. "How can I be one step ahead of the batters? How can I adapt to conditions and change my game plan? I'm working on these aspects with Morkel and my bowling partners," he added, also acknowledging the support of Hardik Pandya with the new ball.

Though India piled up a massive total, Arshdeep said the bowlers focus more on execution than scoreboard pressure. "We set our own standards as a bowling unit. Having an extra cushion of runs helps, but our aim is always to raise our benchmark," he explained.

India next face two-time champions West Indies cricket team in a virtual knockout in Kolkata on March 1 for a semifinal berth. Arshdeep noted the Windies' ability to adapt after watching their game against South Africa national cricket team.

Revealing a lighter moment, he shared that his family was closely following the match. "When West Indies batters were hitting, my dad kept reacting loudly. I told him to relax and just enjoy the game," Arshdeep said, adding that India's focus remains on playing quality cricket and controlling their own destiny.

Kerala Blasters FC and Greater Cochin Development Authority Seal Rent Deal

KOCHI

The standoff between Kerala Blasters FC and the Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) over stadium rent has been resolved, paving the way for the club's continued use of the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kaloor.

The breakthrough came after a meeting between representatives of the club and the authority on Thursday. A formal agreement incorporating the revised financial terms is set to be signed before the team's next home fixture on Saturday.

Under the new arrangement, the Blasters will pay Rs 3 lakh per match as rent and remit Rs 28 lakh as a caution deposit to GCDA. The settlement reflects a middle ground between the earlier stands taken by both sides, which had led to weeks of uncertainty and public sparring.

The agreed rent is higher than the approximately Rs 2 lakh per match relief indicated earlier by GCDA chairperson K Chandran Pillai when the club was considering shifting some matches to Kozhikode. At the same time, it is lower than the Rs 4.2 lakh per match figure supported by sections of the GCDA executive council.

The dispute had escalated ahead of the club's home fixtures in the Indian Super League, with differences emerging within the authority over the proposed reduction in rent. Some council members argued that a steep cut would hurt GCDA financially, particularly since the club earns revenue from ticket sales and advertisements.

Agha's men face must-win clash amid semifinal uncertainty

Pakistan Need Big Win, England's Help to Reach Semifinals

PALLEKELE

Pakistan will require a commanding victory over already-eliminated Sri Lanka and a significant favour from England to keep their T20 World Cup semifinal hopes alive when they play their final Super 8 fixture on Saturday.

Placed third in the group, Pakistan are locked in a race with New Zealand national cricket team for the second semifinal berth.

However, the Kiwis hold a clear advantage with three points and a superior net run rate of 3.050, compared to Pakistan's solitary point and negative NRR of -0.461.

For Pakistan national cricket team, the equation is straightforward yet daunting.

They must thrash Sri Lanka national cricket team comprehensively and hope England cricket team defeat New Zealand by a massive margin to swing the net run rate equation in their favour.

Pakistan's campaign has largely been underwhelming.

Sahibzada Farhan has been the standout performer with 283 runs at a blistering strike rate, including a century and two fifties.

Beyond him, contributions have been sporadic. Shadab Khan has chipped in with 111 runs, but skipper Salman Ali Agha, Saim Ayub and Babar Azam have struggled for consistency.

The team will also look towards the explosive Fakhar Zaman for a decisive knock.

In the bowling department, Usman Tariq's 10 wickets have provided some spark, while Shaheen Shah Afridi has shown glimpses of rhythm.

Sri Lanka, already out of contention, will aim to finish on a high before their home fans. Under Dasun Shanaka, they began brightly with a memorable win over Australia but faltered with successive defeats. Pathum Nissanka's earlier century now feels distant as batting frailties and inconsistent bowling derailed their campaign.

With the semifinal door barely ajar, Pakistan must deliver a near-perfect performance and hope results elsewhere go their way.

AFC Women's Asian Cup: All Set for Continental Showpiece

SYDNEY

Almost three years after Australia hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup, the spotlight returns Down Under as the AFC Women's Asian Cup kicks off on Sunday across Perth, Sydney and Gold Coast. Twelve teams will battle over 27 matches to decide the continental champions and secure qualification pathways for the 2027 World Cup and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Continental glory and World Cup spots headline AFC Women's Asian Cup in Australia.

For hosts Australia, led by star forward Sam Kerr, this could be the last opportunity for a golden generation to win a major title at home. The Matildas, semifinalists at the 2023 World Cup, remain strong contenders.

For India, it marks a historic first qualification on merit. Under new head coach Amelia Valverde, the team arrives with belief and a balanced squad blending youth and experience. Though injuries to key players pose challenges, India's qualification itself signals progress for a side once removed from FIFA rankings due to inactivity.

India open their campaign on March 4 against Vietnam, followed by a stern test against two-time champions Japan women's national football team, ranked eighth in the world and boasting several Europe-based players.

Midfielder Sangita Basfore, whose brace in the qualifiers proved decisive, summed up the team's mindset: focus on one game at a time, beginning with Vietnam. India, currently ranked 67th, will also face Chinese Taipei on March 10. The stakes are high. The top six teams will qualify directly for the 2027 World Cup, while quarter-finalists remain in contention for Olympic spots.

Prague Chess: D Gukesh Held, Aravindh Chithambaram Stuns Hans Moke Niemann

PRAGUE, (CZECH REPUBLIC)

World champion D Gukesh was held to a draw by Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Yakubboev, while defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram bounced back in style to defeat Hans Moke Niemann in round two of the Masters section at the Prague International Chess Festival.

Playing with white, Gukesh could not make headway against Yakubboev's well-prepared Queen's Gambit Declined. After a series of exchanges led to an equal position, Yakubboev sacrificed a rook to force a repetition and secure the half point.

It was Gukesh's second consecutive draw after sharing spoils in the opening round.

In contrast, Aravindh produced a spirited performance to register his first win of the tournament. Opting once again for the Philidor Defence, the Chennai-based Grandmaster conceded early initiative to Niemann.

However, the American faltered under time pressure at a critical juncture, despite engines evaluating his position as winning.

Indian Super League Clubs Oppose Churchill Brothers FC Goa Entry

CHENNAI

Twelve clubs in the Indian Super League (ISL) have written to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) rejecting any proposal to include Churchill Brothers FC Goa in the ongoing 2025/26 season, asserting that the league structure is "closed and final."

The AIFF had circulated a letter to clubs seeking their views on the possible addition of the Goa-based side, nearly two weeks after the season kicked off on February 14. Within 24 hours, a majority of the 14 participating clubs responded firmly against expansion.

"It forms the basis of existing sporting, operational, financial and contractual reliance. No expansion or alteration is acceptable at this stage," the clubs stated in their joint communication. At present, the ISL features 14 teams, and the inclusion of Churchill Brothers would increase the tally to 15.

The clubs argued that any mid-season entry would compromise competitive integrity and deviate from merit-based participation. "Any ad-hoc inclusion of a club outside a recognised sporting pathway is inconsistent with merit-based participation and undermines competitive integrity," the letter added.

Ranji Trophy: 'Unplayable' Auqib Nabi Keeps It Simple

HUBBALLI

For nearly three minutes in the 18th over of Karnataka's innings, silence gripped the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium as Auqib Nabi celebrated back-to-back strikes, leaving the hosts stunned in the Ranji Trophy final. Having entered the summit clash with 99 wickets across the last two seasons, the Jammu and Kashmir pacer carried the tag of a poster boy for seam bowling. He wasted little time living up to the billing. After removing KL Rahul with a delivery that squared him up, Nabi produced two unplayable balls to dismiss Karun Nair and Smaran R off successive deliveries, jolting Karnataka's backbone.

The first seamed away after landing on the upright seam; the next straightened just enough to breach the defence. It was classical fast bowling in the corridor of uncertainty. For Nabi, however, the mantra was straightforward. "I just wanted to keep it simple. Bowl in a particular spot and hit good areas," he said at the end of day three. On a surface where Karnataka's bowlers had toiled for over 170 overs with limited assistance, Nabi found subtle movement by staying closer to the off stump. His ability to maintain a strong, cocked wrist ensured the seam remained upright, allowing natural variation off the pitch. "It's very important to have a straight wrist behind the ball. The ball moves with the wrist. If you hit the right channel, the rest follows," explained the 29-year-old. Despite running through a star-studded batting order featuring experienced names, Nabi insisted he does not focus on reputations. "No batter is difficult if you bowl in good areas. I think about my bowling, not who I'm bowling to," he said, underlining the simplicity behind his devastating spell.

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